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12 MAY 1987

Near East/South Asia Report

SPECIAL NOTICE INSIDE

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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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LATIN AMERICA.....	pink
WEST EUROPE.....	ivory
AFRICA (SUB-SAHARA).....	tan
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY.....	gray
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JPRS-NEA-87-053

12 MAY 1987

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ASALA Splinter Group Publishes 126-Page Brochure (JAMANAK, 12 Mar 87).....	1
Turkey Reacts to EP's Attitude Toward Armenian Question (JAMANAK, 26 Feb 87).....	4

ARAB AFRICA

EGYPT

Coptic Leader Discusses Current Religious Problems, Solutions (Shanudah Interview; AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI, 28 Mar 87).....	6
Briefs	
New Hotel Rates	11

SUDAN

Ba'thist Publication Contemplates Foreign Exchange Problems (AL-DUSTUR, 6 Apr 87).....	12
Al-Ummah Party Figure Describes Current Policies, Developments (al-Ummah Interview; SAWT AL-'ARAB, 22 Mar 87).....	15

SPLA Claims Successes in Various Battles (Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, various dates).....	23
23, 26 Mar Battles	23
SPLA Destroy Aircraft	23
Government Casualties	24
Fighters Repulse Soldiers	24
SPLA Forces Capture Tonga Town	25
Antipersonnel Mines Kill Soldiers	25
Further Government Casualties	25
Briefs	
Oil Reserves, Gold Production	26
AL-SIYASAH Sued for Libel	26

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

ISRAEL

Country May Import From China (Ken Schachter; THE JERUSALEM POST, 27 Mar 87).....	27
Surprise IDF Call-Up Exercise Held (THE JERUSALEM POST, 19 Mar 87).....	28
Labor Party Leadership Coup Viewed (Yo'el Marcus; HA'ARETZ, 10 Apr 87).....	29
Economic Condition Yields Growing Number of Transient Workers (AL-MAJALLAH, 24 Feb 87).....	32
Arab Economy Continues To Decline on West Bank (Mu'in Diab; AL-DUSTUR, 23 Mar 87).....	35
Briefs	
Minister To Visit Poland	40
Italian-Polish Trading Firm	40
Trade Deficit Increases	40
Rise in Tourism	40
IDF Manpower, Weapons Statistics	40
Theater Company to Budapest	41
Weekly Paper Changes to Daily	41
Moroccan King Warned	41
Decrease in Unemployment	41
Israel-Philippines Agreement	42
Foreign Debts Increase	42

KUWAIT

New Markets for Petroleum Products in Third World
(ARAB TIMES, 28 Mar 87)..... 43

LEBANON

Economy Minister Discusses Lebanese Exhibition in London
(Victor Qasir Interview; AL-HAWADITH, 27 Mar 87)..... 44

Mufti Discusses Role of Presidency, Syrians
(AL-SAFIR, 22 Mar 87)..... 48

Druze Leader Complains About President, Factions, Situation
(Walid Jumblatt Interview; AL-HAWADITH, 10 Apr 87)..... 50

Various 1986 Price Indices, Inflation Reported
(AL-SAFIR, 21 Mar 87)..... 54

SAUDI ARABIA

Interior Minister Interviewed on Gulf Security
(Nayif Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz Interview; AL-HAWADITH,
6 Mar 87)..... 59

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Women University Graduates Outnumber Men
(Javed Naqvi; KHALEEJ TIMES, 26 Mar 87)..... 65

Briefs
New Sea Cable 67

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Briefs
Oil Fields Discovered 68

SOUTH ASIA**AFGHANISTAN**

Rabbani Responds to Reactions to U.S. Trip, Other Issues
(Borhanuddin Rabbani Interview; JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI,
30 Dec 86)..... 69

Briefs
Trade Protocol With USSR 80
Economic, Trade Protocol Signed 80

BANGLADESH

India Reportedly Inflates Figures on Chakmas (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 6 Mar 87).....	81
Export Quotas Set for Missions Abroad (THE NEW NATION, 7 Mar 87).....	82
Bengali Designated Official Language (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 27 Feb 87).....	83
Ershad Inaugurates Land Distribution Program (THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER, 6 Mar 87).....	84
Minister Predicts Food Self-Sufficiency by 1990 (THE NEW NATION, 26 Feb 87).....	85
Minister Gives Details on Food Situation (THE NEW NATION, 4 Mar 87).....	86
Ershad Chides Party Leaders for Inefficiency (HOLIDAY, 27 Feb 87).....	87
Two Awami Party Factions Merge, Clashes Reported (THE NEW NATION, 20 Mar 87).....	88
Briefs	
Envoy to Barbados	89
Meghna Bridge Plans	89
Jamuna Bridge Site	89
Netherlands Aid Agreement	90
Dhaka-Moscow Ties	90
Zimbabwe Envoy's Credentials	90
Banned Periodicals Listed	91
Tunisian Ambassador's Credentials	91
Accord With DPRK	91
Pakistan Ambassador's Credentials	91
ROK Envoy's Credentials	92
Envoys to Jamaica, Albania	92
New JSD Officers	92
Ambassador to Iceland, Norway	92
Jute for USSR	92

IRAN

Tehran Comments on U.S. Presence in Persian Gulf (Tehran Domestic Service, 19 Apr 87).....	93
IRNA Cites Journal on Arrest of U.S. 'Spy' in Kuwait (IRNA, 13 Apr 87).....	94

Iraqi Use of Chemical Weapons Alleged, Condemned (Tehran Domestic Service, 19, 20 Apr 87).....	95
'Documented Cases'	95
'Contamination of Nine Villages'	96
SAIRI Advised To Draw Up Constitution for Iraq (IRNA, 19 Apr 87).....	98
Tehran: Iraqis Offered Payment To Divorce Persian Wives (KEYHAN, 14 Jan 87).....	99
Deputy Foreign Minister Meets Socialist Bloc Envoys (Tehran Domestic Service, 16 Apr 87).....	101
Content of Trade Agreement With CSSR Disclosed (KEYHAN, 19 Jan 87).....	102
Bulgaria Agrees To Import 1 Million Tons of Oil (IRNA, 16 Apr 87).....	104
Commerce Minister Meets DPRK Envoy on Trade (IRNA, 17 Apr 87).....	106
Envoy Returns From Visit to DPRK (Tehran Domestic Service, 18 Apr 87).....	107
Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on South Africa (Tehran Domestic Service, 16 Apr 87).....	108
New Exit Regulations for Students Studying Abroad Announced (KEYHAN, 3 Jan 87).....	109
Jewish Community Provides Aid (KEYHAN, 8 Jan 87).....	114
Briefs	
Delegation in Addis Ababa	115
Increase in Non-Oil Exports	115
Satellite Ground Station	115
Larijani Departs for Group of 77 Session	116
Drugs Seized	116
Sistan-Baluchestan Non-Oil Exports	116
Sudanese Envoy Presents Credentials	116
Envoys to Hungary, Burkina	116
Japan-Iran Desire Expansion of Ties	117
Envoys Briefed on Iraqi CW Use	117

PAKISTAN

Briefs

Loan to Uganda	118
French Delegation Meets Zia	118
Credit Offered Bangladesh	118

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ASALA SPLINTER GROUP PUBLISHES 126-PAGE BROCHURE

Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian 12 Mar 87 pp 1, 4

[Article, datelined London, entitled "ASALA Confessions"; first paragraph is JAMANAK introduction]

[Text] Armed Struggle and a Correct Policy Are the Way for Armenia to Go

[Insert] HAYASTAN KAYTSER [Armenian Sparks]

[Excerpts] Masthead of the newspaper HAY ZHOGHVRDAYIN AZATAGRMAN SHARZHUM [Armenian Popular Liberation Movement], published by the ASALA opposition group.

Following the Orly massacre in July 1983, the nationalists who founded the group named the ASALA Revolutionary Movement separated from the ASALA organization led by Hakop Hakopian because of "being party to terrorism" and "disagreement of tactics," and published a 126-page Armenian-language pamphlet entitled "Critique of Armenian Armed Actions Taking Place Between 1975 and 1983," in which new and useful information is presented about acts of Armenian terrorism committed during this eight-year period.

At the present time this organization, called the "ASALA Revolutionary Movement," which is led by Monte Melkonian, a U.S. national who was arrested in Paris, and Alex Yenikomchyan, who was arrested in Switzerland, enjoys the support of the French group led by Ara Toranian and England's "Armenian Sparks."

The pamphlet mentioned above contains a preface and two sections. The preface discusses... [text missing?] realization of the subject in question of this writing, with the aim of "addressing the confused situation pertaining to the independent approximate history existing among present-day Armenian nationalist youth."

The first part summarizes all armed attacks carried out by Armenian nationalists in the period 1975-1983 in Turkey, Europe, the United States, as well as in the Middle East.

When one considers the fact that the pamphlet's authors were the principal officers of ASALA during those days, that the details correspond to the facts,

bearing in mind that they are in agreement with police statements made public up to the present time, it is obvious that this pamphlet is an extremely important document, states CUMHURIYET staff employee (Rhaghp Turan).

This brochure presents the larger picture as well as the finer details, including a number of names of persons involved, with lists and timetables, refining and detailing the purpose of and reasons for actions which have occurred, as well as identifying those responsible for failed operations.

In the second part of the pamphlet, the ASALA, Dashnak, Hnchak, and Ramkavar organizations are subjected to a theoretical discussion of their political and military strategies during the eight-year period in question. Strategy suggestions for the "ASALA Revolutionary Movement" organization are presented in the last part of this section.

The most important of these suggestions is a recommendation for an advance officer guard, a suggestion which is well grounded both in an organizational and theoretical respect. The ASALA Revolutionary Movement applies the principles of Marxism-Leninism.

This pamphlet, introduced in the journal HAY PAYKAR, which is published in Paris, and in the periodical KAYTSER HAYASTANI, which is published in London, presents various opinions concerning an important issue among Armenian nationalist circles, pertaining to the state of disorganization and strategy shortcomings. Articles in these journals, targeted in particular at Hakop Hakopian, appear under the titles "Following Defeat, a Revolutionary Course," "Following Defeat," and "We Were Defeated But Not Destroyed."

Information on ASALA published to date indicates a lack of connection with reality, nationalist writers state, acknowledging that in spite of claims by ASALA, they failed to push the struggle in the period 1908-1982 in Beirut against the Phalangists, nor in 1982 in Southern Lebanon against Israel. In any case ASALA was incapable of conducting a struggle, since during that time, with Hakopian in the organization, it had only a group of 11 militant activists in Lebanon. In addition, in the months of May-June 1983 ASALA made the unfounded claim of sacrificing 23 martyrs during the actions carried out by Turkish Unions in Iraqi Kurdistan, an groundless assertion first made public by Hakopian and subsequently repeated by the reactionary Turkish press, inasmuch as not a single ASALA militant activist had gone to Iraqi Kurdistan.

The pamphlet also presents details on the 8 December 1982 attempt to bomb the Kuwaiti Airlines office in Athens. The pamphlet states that orders for the bombing were given by Hakopian to two ASALA nationalists by the name of Garnik Vahratian and Vahe (Khivtavertian), that the attempted bombing was financed with 500,000 dollars from Libya, and that the bomb exploded in Garnik's hands "by mistake," resulting in Garnik's death and Vahe's sentencing to 14 years in prison.

Elsewhere in the pamphlet it is stated that in the years 1983-1985 Hakopian, whose organization had been scattered and the number of militant activists diminished, bombed four Armenian targets in Paris, for the purpose of reigniting animosity toward the Turks among the Armenian community.

Statements to this effect first appeared in official reports issued in Paris by French security officials, and subsequently in the journal HAY PAYKAR and in statements by Toronian in the press.

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CSO: 4605/20

TURKEY REACTS TO EP'S ATTITUDE TOWARD ARMENIAN QUESTION

Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenia 26 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] As we had written yesterday, the "Fatefull Day" finally arrived and the report and resolution entitled "A Political Solution to the Armenian Question" prepared by the representative of Belgium Jean Vandemeulebroucke was ratified by the Political Commission of the European Parliament after some modifications. The Brussels correspondent of TRT [as published] gave the news last night in the following words:

"The Political Commission of the European Parliament, the organization for the cooperation of the peoples of Europe, ratified the resolution on the Armenian Question after deleting the word "genocide" from the original. But in spite of this, the resolution contained certain one-sided and inappropriate expressions. Turkey expressed its regret that such a resolution had been accepted and severely criticized the step taken.

Twenty-five members voted in favor of the resolution, 23 members against, and 2 abstained.

During this meeting, an electric atmosphere reigned between the representatives of the press in the corridors of the parliament and the members of the Political Commission. Not only did those responsible for the meetings forbid the (TRT) correspondent from taking photographs during the session but they even prohibited the showing to television viewers of the empty halls prior to the session. The proposal of amendment introduced by the German Socialist Deputy, Klaus Hanshini, lightened the resolution slightly and the expression "tragedy" replaced the original word "genocide."

In the session of the Political Commission held with all members present, the Communists, the Socialists and the Green Groups voted in favor of the Vandemeulebroucke resolution while the representatives of the Christian Democrats, the Conservatives, and the Liberals voted against. The resolution which was passed by the meeting without the word "genocide" includes the views of both sides, as much as possible.

In spite of the exclusion of the word "genocide," the following has been introduced in the resolution: "The meeting deplores the injustice done to the Armenian people in 1915."

The report and the resolution stress that "in view of the tragedy that befell the Armenian people, the parliament concurs with the demands made by the Armenians regarding the safeguarding of the rights of minorities in Turkey and ensuring that they benefit from the human rights prescribed within the Turkish constitution."

The sentence: "The official recognition, according to international law, of the Genocide of the Armenians by the Turkish Government can have no responsible result" has also been deleted from the original. This resolution, ratified with some slight modifications, will be placed on the agenda of the general assembly of the parliament.

There too, the deputies may propose certain changes and after receiving its final form, the proposal becomes a decision of the European Parliament.

Turkish Foreign Ministry Reaction

The ratification of the report on the Armenians has produced a sharp reaction by the Turkish Foreign Ministry, which makes the following clarification:

"We feel sorry at the decision of the Political Commission, as it will bring no benefit to the relations of Turkey and Europe."

The clarification underlines also the fact that in spite of the exclusion of the word "genocide" from the report, the latter, through its general form implying that injustices were done to the Armenians, aims at satisfying the Armenians by referring to a certain number of "unjust and biased" expressions.

The clarification continues:

"If the allusion to the Treaty of Lausanne in connection with the injustice done to Armenians and other minorities is not the result of ignorance, then we will be obliged to look for other motives in this attitude."

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CSO: 4605/18

COPTIC LEADER DISCUSSES CURRENT RELIGIOUS PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 28 Mar 87 p 7

[Interview with Pope Shanudah by Rajab al-Banna: "Concerning Factional Strife — Roots and Resolutions"]

[Text] "There is more than one feeling inside me, and more than one conviction, which prompts me to fail to call these events factional strife. They do not express the condition of our whole people and they must be confronted. There are many areas for action."

With these words, His Holiness Pope Shanudah began the third interview. The conversation then rallied together to deal with numerous issues, in the search for roots and resolutions.

His holiness the pope said:

"As we were celebrating the tribute to mothers a few days ago, we must all remember that Egypt is our mother, and we are all her children. We pay as much tribute to her as we can, and it is a form of tribute to her that Egypt should appear brilliantly before all the countries of the world and appear, as it is its history, as a country of love, cooperation and peaceful coexistence. This is the picture we would like to preserve for Egypt. Its Moslems and Christians are a single people, with a single heart and a single goal."

[Question] What is your view regarding the recent events?

[Answer] All that has happened will in no way affect the beloved image of Egypt. Although the events were indeed serious, they in our view were individual events which did not express the condition of the whole people. However, the people who carried them out have sought to move them to various places, so that they will assume a form which is greater than their true magnitude. There might be political objectives behind them which have assumed the external garb of religion, on grounds that religion has a deeper effect on the spirits of people.

However, in any case, everything that has happened requires examination and treatment. It will not be of benefit to us only to feel sorrow over what has

happened; rather, what will benefit us more is to think about the treatment, so that the events will not be repeated and so that we may set out a foundation for a future of unity in which everyone's efforts will be joined together.

[Question] What, then, is the duty of the religious institutions?

[Answer] Before I talk about the religious institutions and their duty in preserving and strengthening national unity and in calming people's feelings, I would like to state that all the official and people's bodies must cooperate in this duty together. Indeed, everyone, every group, every union and every institution must cooperate in it; the treatment of it must not be confined just to the authorities, or just to the men of religion, because it is a matter that concerns the whole nation.

At the forefront of this is the duty which the media, such as the radio and television, must perform. Besides all this, we must draw attention to benefit from domestic movies which take hold of citizens' feelings and unite them in the service of their country.

One may also raise a question about religious publications and the extent of their cooperation in strengthening national unity. Would that some people would make a study of books which discuss religious subjects and depart from the scholarly method in order to provoke and attack, or infringe on specific sensibilities. Would that everyone was concerned to commit himself to the style that will strengthen national unity, not wreck it.

This statement also applies to all publications, in the form of books, magazines and newspapers. The publications have their influence on people's spirits, since they can be turned from a printed statement into an idea and a feeling, and sometimes into action and measures.

Therefore, we always encourage religious books which bring people's hearts together and leave good effects on people's relations with one another. The same with the constructive articles which take this approach, train people to observe other people's feelings, advocate interconnection and fraternity and remedy every rift.

The press has a great, basic role in implanting the foundations of national unity, especially the daily papers which are constantly linked to people's thinking and feelings day after day. We thank the Union of Journalists for its sentiments and guidance. We would like the press to be profoundly, continuously active in building unity and love. There is no doubt that its role has two approaches, a positive approach, toward the development of unity, and another approach, in the treatment of negative features, all this through persuasion, enlightenment, the provision of examples through history, the analysis of religious considerations, concentration on verses which call for love and interaction through affection, disputation on behalf of that which is better and the provision of a good intellectual climate in whose structure major thinkers can contribute proof through logic and religion.

What is obvious is that the country becomes agitated whenever events occur which shake the national conscience and talk about national unity comes to

seem as if it was talk for special occasions only, while the proper condition is to have the talk about unity be the general atmosphere. Would that many, diverse writers, Moslems and Christians, would contribute to writing.

[Question] Does the press alone bear all this responsibility?

[Answer] There is another duty which lies upon the schools, colleges and all places of learning, in spreading relations of affection among students, children and adolescents, so that the principles of cooperation and affection, respect for one another and the failure to discriminate among them on the grounds that one is Moslem and the other Christian, and indeed the assertion that all are Egyptians living in a single society dominated by peace and love will be implanted in their feelings. Religion, every religion, advocates love, and everyone gives a bright picture of his religious principles through his good dealings with others.

Students, during their academic careers, must be brought up to condemn violence by having them shown the harm it does and having their powers directed toward constructive activity, participating with one another in that, in the conviction that real strength lies in the acquisition of people's love and service of them, not in bothering anyone, whatever the reason that calls for causing trouble might be.

Our children are clay which can be easily molded in the hands of their professors and teachers. Would that our country held education and enlightenment courses for teachers on ways of bringing up and guiding students on the principles of love, not violence, and granted appreciation bonuses from the government for people working in schools who excel in this area.

It is also necessary to cast a searching glance at educational curricula and ascertain that they are free of any content which might provoke touchy feelings or affect national unity, with attention to the diverse activities which exist in the schools and faculties, since actual participation exists there on everyone's part in an atmosphere of familiarity, cooperation and unity.

This leads us to another point, which is the work performed by the higher youth council and everyone who participates in elevating young people and supervising their activity and their enlightenment and how studies and seminars can be held in which ideas, aberrant acts and rumors that are connected to young people, the treatment of all that in the context of thinking and conviction and the provision of good examples to young people through the good biographies that history has preserved for us, old or modern, can be discussed.

After all this, let me return to the duty of religious figures, Christians and Moslems, and to the duty of the mosque and the church, in official sermons, exhortations, public and individual meetings and all the religious knowledge and methods of interaction people present. Love and unity must be in the essence of their talks, through attention, a pure heart and a good example. How beautiful it is when Moslem and Christian religious figures appear together in common activity, with unity of heart, with unity of goal, and even with unity of means and method.

I was very appreciative of the good effort Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, the minister of religious endowments, performed and the good appearance the religious figures presented along with us in al-Minya, Bani Suwayf and so forth in more than one meeting, with the noble spirit which manifested itself in all the approaches by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who is concerned about national unity and sincerely advocates it on every occasion.

In my opinion, our country needs many joint meetings among Moslem and Christian religious figures, with active participation in working toward national unity.

How easy it is for the mosque to work alone, and the church to work alone, for the sake of unity and love. However, the good effects will become clearer and more effective the more the mosque and church work together in a single framework, while leaving differences in belief to the faith of each person separately. Let everyone talk about the common points, which are very numerous, in all areas of work, for the sake of belief in God and in service of the nation and the spread of love in everyone's hearts toward one another.

[Question] Here we might ask, what is the duty of young people, and what is our duty toward young people?

[Answer] In my opinion, young people require that specific ideas become clear to them which will determine their intellectual platform and will be a guiding light for them in their relations with others.

Young people must know, and we must teach them, that God does not demand that which is outside their area of competence and is outside their responsibility of them, that if they love freedom for themselves they must also love freedom for others, and if they believe deeply in something it must be good and they must find it their duty to advance that good thing. Let that occur through conviction and logic, not through compulsion and violence. Conviction is more firm and deep-rooted in the depths of people's spirits, while compulsion is a loathesome thing which involves harshness and belittlement of the psychological and human value of others. The road of conviction is to work with the self from within. Compulsion covers man with clothing on the outside, while his heart might perhaps be opposed to it.

We must explain to young people that it is not reasonable that they should combine the three powers, the power of legislation, the power of the judiciary and the executive power, and rule that a given thing is wrong, pass on a sentence of death or the shedding of his blood against the person who committed it and then carry this out themselves.

Likewise, the subject of violence requires that there be discussion and that people be persuaded that it is harmful. It is possible to convince them through proof from religion and logic, from the actual condition of life and from experience as well. Violence does not give a good picture of a full spirit clad in virtues, and it might harm the country and its reputation, harm man and his tolerant nature and create a disturbed atmosphere in which love vanishes and peace vanishes, and which is against freedom as well.

It is well known that the proper meaning of freedom is that man should exercise his freedom so that he does not trespass against the rights of others and their freedoms, and so that he exercises this freedom without breaking the law or public order.

We would like all people to be brought up with respect and veneration for the powers that God has granted in their supervision and brought up to respect their parents at home from childhood, respect their teachers and professors at school and in the faculties and institutes, and respect their supervisors at work and in every activity they pursue. The person who is brought up in all this must respect himself first of all, and also respect law and order, and from all this create a level, integrated society in which every individual knows the limits of his conduct and in which also he knows the morality of conduct and the values necessary to protect the society.

If people do not respect elders and guardians, they will of necessity act with indifference and with a lack of attention to authority, where each person crushes that which he considers is in violation of his ideas or in violation of his wishes. There is nothing more threatening than this to the safety of the nation and to their own safety -- indeed, there is nothing more threatening to the safety of any group and any society.

Another thing that is necessary for the safety and cohesion of society is to be trained to respect the views of others, no matter how they might differ, debate with them over what is the best, to be trained also in calm, extemporaneous discourse in a manner which will be relaxing to others, and not consider a person who has differences in opinion to be a personal enemy who must be resisted or liquidated! There is nothing more beautiful than for dialogue to be characterized by objectivity and not be an arena for fighting in which various techniques are used.

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CSO: 4504/197

EGYPT

BRIEFS

NEW HOTEL RATES--Mr Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation, has decided to set the prices of lodging in hotels for a period of a year starting next October in order to prevent competition among hotels, with the provision that the hotels declare their prices in dollars to foreigners, tour companies be compelled to pay a minimum of 25 percent of the lodging expenses of tourists in dollars and the hotels have the right to request all the money owed them by the tour companies in dollars. The minister added that the prices which have been set include the five-star hotels, which are between 79 and 113 pounds, those with four stars, between 55 and 79 pounds, with three stars, between 26 and 52 pounds, with two stars, between 22 and 31 pounds, and with single stars, between 11.5 and 16.5 pounds. The minister added that this decision was made in accordance with a request by the chamber of hotels and is occurring in the framework of the policy of the ministry, which has the goal of stimulating the tourist season. He said that the hotels are not allowed to go below the minimum or raise the maximum without authorization of the ministry, so that the national economy may be protected, and it has been decided to apply penalties to hotels which are in violation. The minister said that the price policy for the new season is aimed at preventing harmful competition among hotels by renewing the minimum for prices which can be given to foreign tourist groups or domestic tourist activity, where the prices will be reduced by 50 percent from the hotel's declared maximum to encourage group tourist activity. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 23 Mar 87 p 1]

CSO: 4504/197

BA'THIST PUBLICATION CONTEMPLATES FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROBLEMS

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Apr 87 pp 36, 37

[Article: "The Sudan's Hard Currency Reserves: Will the Government Eliminate the Present Foreign Currency System?"]

[Text] The major Western and Arab oil currencies are truly "hard" currencies for countries like the Sudan which are earnestly trying to reform their economies in the midst of harder monetary and economic circumstances in the international context -- especially now that negotiations between the International Monetary Fund and the government of the Sudan have faltered, while it has also become a "hard" matter to predict some rich Arab countries' ability to help the Sudan due to the recent fluctuation in oil revenues.

Sudanese economists are in agreement that hard currency is restricted to three main sources: import revenues, remittances of Sudanese expatriates and foreign loans, aid and grants.

The main Sudanese exports which provide the country with a foreign currency income are cotton, gum arabic, peanuts, sesame, corn and oil seeds. These, combined, account for about 70 to 75 percent of the total value of Sudanese exports. However, the revenues from these began to fluctuate annoyingly in the 1983-84 season. In 1984-85, they realized only an estimated US \$550 million, approximately, as compared with about \$700 million in the 1983-84 season. According to economic views which are compatible with the approaches of the International Monetary Fund and American economic experts, that may be attributed to the failure to bring about the requisite devaluation in the Sudanese national currency, while other Sudanese economists believe that the sufferings of Sudanese exports can be attributed to incompetence in defining the exchange rates of foreign currency, since Sudanese exporters must provide the foreign accessories necessary for their production at the exchange rate authorized by commercial banks (4.1 Sudanese pounds per dollar) and at the same time are compelled to sell their exports at the official government exchange rate (2.5 Sudanese pounds to the dollar). As a consequence, no Sudanese product will be profitable unless it is subsidized by the government, and, unless a review is made of the current exchange rates, in the context of a comprehensive economic reform program, Sudanese exports will continue to be burned and destroyed in a manner which will inflict harm on the reputation of domestic output over the long range.

Expatriates' Remittances

Before the recent change in Sudanese monetary policy, which prohibits ownership of amounts in excess of US \$1,000 and forbids the issuance of permits to engage in the occupation of changing money, total remittances by Sudanese expatriates working in Arab oil countries came to about US \$504 million in 1985. However, these expatriates declined to deal with official and government channels, since the foreign currency allocations committee could buy only US \$35 million from expatriates, at a rate of \$5.8 million [sic] a month. Some Sudanese economists fear that this will cause the emergence of parallel exchange markets outside the country. One should bear in mind that the black market, which is not a legal one according to the country's statutes, offers services to expatriates who must bring their savings into the country one way or another. These economists warn that if the current monetary policy is not changed, the remittances of Sudanese working abroad will drop to just \$75 million a year, as compared with remittances ranging from \$800 to \$900 million in previous years. Indeed, Sudanese bankers estimate that these remittances would have come to \$1.4 billion if transactions which were not observed in an orderly manner were taken into consideration.

Foreign Aid

The Sudan receives massive foreign aid from the World Bank, the United States government, the European Common Market, West Germany, The Netherlands and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The last, alone, offered the Sudan support totalling \$190 million in all in 1985-86. Its support came to \$240 million the year before that. The group of Arab oil countries, headed by Saudi Arabia, is still committed to financing the Sudan's oil consumption bill, at least over the next 2 years. Economic reports in Khartoum indicate that the American administration may allocate support to the Sudan of around \$125 million this year and another \$40 million in 1988. The World Bank has expressed its readiness to allocate US \$160 million this year to support the foreign currency balance in the Sudan, on condition that a review be made of current policy, which governs the exchange rates. In Brussels, it is expected that the European group will contribute large support in the framework of the Loumy treaty concerned with remedying the Sudanese balance of payments deficit. West Germany has suggested that it is prepared to provide \$20 million to support a new monetary policy in 1987 and 1988. Meanwhile, the government of The Netherlands is continuing its commitment to allocate \$10 million a year to the Sudan, \$5 million of which will be transferred to support the balance of payments in the form of the financing of imports of agricultural accessories.

The problem of current monetary policy in the Sudan is, however, embodied in the restrictions which weigh it down.

This policy suffers from the presence of a number of exchange rates. The government of the Sudan is now applying five exchange rate systems, as follows:

An official exchange rate, at a ratio of 2.5 Sudanese pounds per dollar, which is used in calculating government imports, cotton and gum arabic exports and foreign aid.

An official exchange rate to which commercial banks are bound, at a ratio of 4.1 Sudanese pounds per American dollar. This is used in evaluating private sector imports and some foreign aid.

An encouragement exchange rate at a ratio of 4.475 Sudanese pounds per American dollar, to encourage the flow of remittances from Sudanese people working abroad. This price consists of the exchange rate to which the commercial banks are bound, which was mentioned above, in addition to an encouragement bonus of 15 percent of the official exchange rate (2.5 pounds to the dollar) which is calculated by considering 37.5 Sudanese piasters for every dollar sold to be a sum exempted from customs duties.

An exchange rate bearing on exports, at a ratio of 2.95 Sudanese pounds per American dollar applied to all exports except cotton and gum Arabic. Thirty percent of this will consist of the commercial bank exchange rate and 70 percent will consist of the official rate.

An exchange rate imposed by the forces of the "black market"; since the declaration of current banking policy, this has risen from 4.35 Sudanese pounds per dollar to nearly 5 Sudanese pounds per dollar according to statements of people recently arriving in the British capital from Khartoum.

A New System?

Someone reading the Khartoum press recently would observe a difference in and proliferation of views among Sudanese economists on how to get out of the state of "truncation" the country's economic situation is going through at the present time. However, this difference and proliferation turn into explicit agreement on a single goal, which is the need to seek an alternative system which will provide the Sudanese economy with the greatest possible amount of foreign currencies, to increase commercial and economic activity and create greater confidence between the banking system and people working abroad.

One group of economists recommends consolidating the numerous exchange rates mentioned above so that they will become twofold -- that is there would be an official rate and another encouragement rate. Some parts which endorse the approach of the World Bank and the American administration call for the establishment of a system of free auctions for foreign currency similar to that currently being applied in Nigeria and Zambia. Others consider that it would be more feasible to consolidate the current numerous rates, after which a modification in principle would be effected in the new consolidated price in specific monthly or semi-monthly periods so that it would continue to be able to compete.

11887
CSO: 4504/199

AL-UUMMAH PARTY FIGURE DESCRIBES CURRENT POLICIES, DEVELOPMENTS

Cairo SAWT AL-'ARAB in Arabic 22 Mar 87 p 9

[Interview with al-Ummah Party Political Bureau Member 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Latif by Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din: "The Current Coalition Cabinet in the Sudan Is Narrowing the Government's Effectiveness and Ability To Make Decisions"]

[Text] This interview was not the object of an arrangement between me and the person giving it. The opportunity for the meeting was essentially connected to an arrangement by a mutual friend engendered by a desire to build a common bridge, to get close, be in contact and stay in contact. Previously, I had known that 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Latif was an educated figure who had shared the hard years before the uprising with al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and that on top of that was a good example of a new Sudanese generation which constitutes part of a broader phenomenon, by which the al-Ummah Party has reinvigorated itself and on the basis of which it has incorporated new ideas and powers into its organizational and intellectual structures.

I also knew that a few days before, during his temporary stay in Cairo, he had been elected member of the political bureau of the party, which seems to be preparing itself to rush onto the horizons of a new period in its national activity.

When we began to prepare the first step for this interview together, a common, serious, sincere desire to arrive at clearer, deeper mutual understanding guided our approach.

The range of the interview therefore broadened and largely drifted away from its original course. However, after a few hours of intellectual skirmishing, we decided to detach part of the interview for publication; that was my assessment, and one on which he was in agreement with me. Perhaps we thereby would be able to introduce a further quotient of mutual clarity and understanding into the realm of national action in Egypt and the Sudan.

I told 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Latif:

"As I imagine it, the Sudanese situation is still engaged in ferment and therefore has not yet assumed its final, stable form. I do not just mean

that the elements of fermentation are still active in the Sudanese condition, but I do mean, more than that, that the final form which these elements are generating has not yet become consolidated.

"If that is correct, what is the nature of these processes of fermentation? Where are they headed, and what will their form be like subsequently?

He said, "I agree with you that the final form of what you call the 'Sudanese situation' has not yet been rounded out and as I believe it that may be attributed to the upheaval itself.

"When the Sudanese people got in movement, their revolution was supposed to reach its culmination, or its climax. This culmination or climax was a specific national charter and the object of general national agreement on the part of all the forces which had led the upheaval.

"However, fate had it that the armed forces responded favorably to this upheaval and that in this context a transitional government was formed which the army subsequently dominated.

"The decision was that this transitional government would be semi-neutral. Perhaps it is difficult for the formation of a cabinet founded on persons who can be described as impartial, to whom the character of neutrality actually does apply, to take place in such a situation.

"The result of this was the emergence of a structure which was not homogeneous or interconnected. Another result of it was that the transitional period became burdensome to the Sudan and the revolutionary measures which should inevitably have been taken were not taken.

"The processes of effecting a purge or accounting for former crimes did not get underway, the constitution by which the defunct regime had governed closed the door to extensive change, and previous legislation such as the laws on Islamic law continued to help block off the process of natural development. Consequently, the transitional government continued to consider that it had been given a trust which it was to keep as it was, until it could consign it to the elected government.

"Unfortunately, the elections did not yield results which would help compensate for the time that had been squandered. The Sudanese people did not assign a specific party to form the government on its own.

"In reality I am against coalition or national governments. In my estimation, they are always the weakest of governments, since the prime minister's role is confined to the context of effecting conciliation among opposing tendencies, where all decisions ultimately end up more like compromise solutions. Most frankly, they are not feasible in the Sudan's circumstances.

"There was a people's revolution and an upheaval which took place to save the nation from ruin, economic plunder and subordination which had been imposed for more than 16 years. I do not believe that a decision to effect reconciliation or a compromise solution can face this sort of challenge.

"Therefore, I can say that it would be better and more feasible for a single party to assume the formation of the government, while the other parties engage in the process of controlling the steps and the pace of this government as an opposition.

"It is true that in the Sudan there is a strong coalition which must inevitably endure, but a person following events in the Sudan can discover that decisionmaking is extremely difficult and that the government in this framework cannot carry out the radical reforms which must inevitably be performed.

"The status of the process of conducting a purge is in flux and the same goes for amending the constitution and eliminating some laws such as that on 'Numayri's Islamic law.' I know that the whole situation is related to amending the current constitution, because it, by itself, prevents the government from taking many reform measures.

"But how can it hold people who wrought corruption in a former regime to account 2 years after the elimination of this regime!

"In such a situation it is certain that such action will occur after a great delay.

"You will ask me, what is the way out?

"I will answer you that it is the same thing I stressed at the beginning. I believe that if the opportunity is granted for elections to be held in the Sudan a second time, after the current coalition government is given a further transitional period during which the constitutional conference will be held (by means of which we hope the issue of the south and all the issues related to the minorities will be solved and a conception will be set out on all the economic and political problems of the Sudan) -- if either of the two big parties in the Sudan will be able to form a government by itself, that will give an impetus to the progress of change that is desired."

[Question] I believe that the proponents of the current or national government are enthusiastic about it for a number of reasons, some of which are more connected to the special circumstances of the Sudan. It might be, foremost among these reasons, that the magnitude of the problems, difficulties and challenges is too massive for a single Sudanese political force to bear. Another reason might also be that there is a desire on the part of these parties, because they were prevented from exercising their rights to power for a long time, to play an effective role in formulating Sudanese political decisions.

[Answer] I do not believe that it is just a question of satisfying or quenching people's desires. Government is not a mathematical game in which each person must have the chance to take part. Of course, people have the right to take part, but it is their duty to bear responsibility, and I still believe that a single party which bears responsibility above them all on the basis of a specific, declared election program must carry out this program.

Democracy does not mean that all parties should participate in the government, but rather that they should all participate in governing.

[Question] Does that mean that you consider that the current framework of the cabinet in the Sudan diminishes the effectiveness of the government and the effectiveness of its premier?

[Answer] Yes, it very much diminishes the effectiveness of the government and restricts its movement. Although that is a situation that is imposed by circumstances, it is not the optimum situation.

[Question] What, then, in your estimation, are the political forces in the Sudan that are now qualified to lead a government by themselves?

[Answer] There are two large well-known parties, the al-Ummah Party and the Democratic Union Party. Since the Sudan became acquainted with democracy, these two parties have been competing for power.

As regards the "National Islamic Front," notwithstanding its presence in parliament, its position in the Sudan does not qualify it in the short term to govern.

If I may compare the al-Ummah and Union Parties, it is certain that the al-Ummah Party's chances are stronger and better.

[Question] That perhaps brings us to some phenomena which still require explanation. It had been imagined, for example, in the wake of the upheaval, in which the Sudanese people as a whole took part, and whose magnitude was not subsumed by either of the two parties, that the political map in the Sudan would become open to big new variables. However, what actually happened was the opposite of that. When the elections were held, the traditional forces managed to wrest the majority again.

[Answer] Allow me to differ with you. The al-Ummah Party, for instance, to which the masses gave their votes, is not the same old party. The party recently held conferences throughout the entire Sudan, from the sections and villages on up to a general conference which covered the whole Sudan.

Extensive preparatory work preceded this conference. During the al-Ummah Party's period in opposition, we prepared studies in anticipation of the day we would come into power. After Numayri's government fell and the upheaval was consummated, we reformulated all the previous studies and managed to formulate a new program called the "platform of the awakening" in addition to a new constitution and new bills. The election at the various levels of the party took place in a democratic manner, and the general conference of the party helped formulate the party's election program. Today we are committed to the platform of the awakening with which we were victorious in the elections.

Just last week, the central committee of the party elected its political bureau, again in a democratic manner.

That is, the party has rebuilt itself and replenished its personnel, from the base to the summit.

[Question] Since we are talking about this, some analyses hold that Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his party now consider the current stage to be a

transitional one and that he will push matters in the direction of holding new elections which will enable him to gain power in isolation. These analyses also consider that this tendency will be tantamount to the creation of a new modern dictatorship in the Sudan.

[Answer] The al-Ummah Party is against dictatorship, be it military or civilian. Indeed, we resist all dictatorship. Therefore, when I spoke about the al-Ummah Party, I was not talking about al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, about his self-sacrifice or his awareness, but rather I was speaking about a party in the full sense of the word. Permit me to assert that I am talking about a party, and not about an individual.

Concerning the question of getting to power, I consider that that is a legitimate right of any party anywhere. The subject of disagreement might be the means. We do not conceal our ambition, but our means cannot be other than democracy. After that, I would like to add that there are issues of a national nature. We are offering every concession in order to reach conciliation with the others in their regard, for instance the issue of the south, the economic problem, foreign policy and our relationship with our neighbors.

These are issues which even if we are in power by ourselves must be the subject of agreement with the Sudanese people.

[Question] Since the al-Ummah Party has a comprehensive program for solving the Sudan's problems, could we become more familiar with its conception for solving the problem of the south and the economic problem?

[Answer] As far as the question of the south is concerned, we consider that there are profound differences which must be recognized. There is a difference in religion which must be taken into consideration. There is the lack of equitable distribution in development between the south and the north which cannot be ignored and there is a feeling in the south of a lack of fairness in the apportionment of higher positions which must be taken into consideration.

However, what must be considered unfortunate is that attempts exist to divert the issue of the south from its proper substance.

Sometimes that occurs by presenting it as an issue between Christianity and Islam, an issue between Arabhood and negritude, or one between the north and the south.

We shun all these interpretations and ideas because unless we do so we will be paving the way for foreign elements to interfere in the framework of a united Sudan.

We acknowledge that the south has grievances and that we must take part in offering solutions. We presented solutions to the people of the south in 1967 and they accepted them. The conference of the parties at that time produced the round table conference at which total agreement was reached. A draft was set out for the permanent constitution in the Sudan when Numayri came and called it the yellow paper, then tore it up.

With respect to the economic problem, we consider that the meat has been striped off the bones of the Sudanese economy, but the bones still exist.

Let me give you an example in the form of the famine in the Sudan. It just lasted 4 years in Numayri's era, but we went beyond it in a single year and have declared to the world that we do not need the help of subsidies. Indeed, we now have come to have a surplus in the south. The economic problem, as we believe, is not one that is too difficult to solve. We have inherited burdensome debts from the Numayri regime and we as a government respect the commitments regarding them. We cannot ignore these debts, but we must review them and we are now intending to review them and will pay those debts which are serious and real. However, we at the same time expect the creditor countries to appreciate the Sudan's circumstances, either by working to reschedule these debts or to freeze the interest on them.

That is because this interest alone exceeds the Sudan's revenues.

[Question] While I was wondering about the party's economic program, I also meant its social orientation. That is, there are inherited conditions contrary to the above experience which have brought out severe class contradictions that still exist. Toward whom does the al-Ummah Party in the Sudan orient itself?

[Answer] We are by disposition oriented toward the toiling class consisting of shepherds, farmers and workers, because they are the people who need real services in the Sudan. In Kordofan, Darfur, the south and the Red Sea, the people are still suffering from a shortage of medicine and water and bad roads and communications.

The minimum wage in the Sudan is about 69 Sudanese pounds. Imagine, we have carried out a statistical study on a Sudanese worker's family consisting of five persons, in terms of the satisfaction of their essential requirements, and have found that that would cost close to 300 Sudanese pounds!

If we are not concerned with satisfying the needs of such a family, we will have no future in power, even if we reach it. On the other hand, we assign leadership to the public sector, followed by the cooperative sector, after which comes the private sector -- which we recognize, and whose role we recognize, although on the provision that that not be at the expense of the other two sectors.

[Question] Let us move on to the map of the Sudan itself. There are forces which have risen to the surface in political life in the Sudan recently. I mean the Islamic Front. How do you view this front's status, and how do you view its future in the light of the fermentation in the current Sudanese situation?

[Answer] First of all, we in the al-Ummah Party went into the elections under the watchword of eliminating the "Numayri" Islamic law, and we said so from the day of the issuance of this legislation, over which the watchword of Islam was raised. It is certain that it is the Islamic Front which supported Numayri and caused the Sudan to succumb to many problems it is still

suffering from. The problem of the south, for example, became more intense after the Islamic legislation, which we called the "September laws." The Islamic Front also had dealings with Numayri in regard to more serious issues, such as the Falasha. The secretary general of the Islamic Front was Ja'far Numayri's political advisor in these dealings, and the Falasha operation was carried out in cooperation with the Islamic Front. Although we consider this the greatest act of treason in the modern era, more than that, the Islamic front was implicated with Numayri in all his crimes.

With respect to the elections, the actual situation is that this front got 51 districts but we believe that it got them as a result of carelessness. We in the al-Ummah Party asked for districts for the modern forces and for women, but it was the other parties which requested districts for university graduates, and the front got more than its votes by means of these districts.

The second thing is that they benefitted from the presence of a number of party candidates in a given district.

The National Islamic Front is now functioning as a political party although at the beginning it was just an organization of Moslem Brothers raising objectives related to Islamic education. Yes, they have benefitted from the complexity of the Sudan's circumstances and the burden of the economic problems. They also have benefited from the improvement in their political conditions in terms of their wealth, which emerged in Numayri's period, and their economic positions, which were strengthened then.

Can you imagine, for example, that because of the revolution they now have about 80 percent of all the Sudan's papers, that the government's parties are not able to issue a daily paper, and the two large parties issue their semi-weekly paper, while they are drowning the Sudan in theirs? In spite of that, I can state categorically that their conditions have started to decline with the passage of time and that their opportunity for getting to power is totally remote.

[Question] The interview would be inadequate if we were not to talk about the Nile valley. It appears, following the recent developments in the Sudan, that some touchy feelings still exist that have been inherited, exported or fabricated and are obstructing the course of Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

[Answer] I might agree with you that there are touchy feelings which have been exported and that there are touchy feelings which have been fabricated, but I do not agree with you that there are touchy feelings that have been inherited. The present generations understand reality and live with a mentality that is open to the future. Although there may be people to whom inherited touchy feelings can be conveyed, peoples cannot in any way tolerate such a legacy. The hearts of the whole Sudan are open to Egypt and there is not a single Sudanese who can turn away from that fact. It is in the interests of Egypt, as in the interests of the Sudan, that the common relationship between them develop and deepen. However, that clearly is not in the interests of America or Israel.

Following this, it is left to be said that an achievement actually has been realized for developing this relationship in the last month, with the

issuance of the charter of brotherhood. There now is an agreement which stands on a broad base and I imagine that that is the basic matter, because it is related to strategic security.

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SUDAN

SPLA CLAIMS SUCCESSES IN VARIOUS BATTLES

23, 26 Mar Battles

EA071631 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in
Bari 1120 GMT 7 Apr

[Excerpts] After a week of preparations, on 23 March this year a combined force of various units of the SPLA was sent to prevent the enemy, which was being assisted by the militia, from reaching a place called Safa at Kir River. The SPLA combined force was drawn from the following units: Rejaf, Twik-Twik, Fire, Bee, Crocodile and Leopard, under the command of Daniel Aweit Akuot, member of the SPLA-SPLM High Command and commander of the SPLA fighters in northern Bahr al-Ghazal. The fighting started at 0730 and ended at 1200. The enemy force was compelled to flee in disarray after 37 of them were killed and others wounded.

The following items have been captured from the enemy, all clean and in working order: 1 tank, including its occupants, 2 82-MM heavy guns, a heavy 42-type machine gun, and 6 other heavy guns, all with their numbers known, 2 FM-type guns, 1 kalashnikov with 35 rounds of 82-MM [as heard] ammunition and 300 rounds of ammunition for a G.3 gun. The following items have also been destroyed: an enemy radio set, a Gorgunov heavy machine gun, and a 14.5 caliber anti-aircraft gun.

Again on 26 March, the enemy tried to send reinforcements to help the scattered soldiers but it also got rough treatment. Sixty enemy soldiers were killed, together with 50 horses. One hundred and fifty-four head of cattle, 450 goats and 15 donkeys were captured.

SPLA Destroy Aircraft

EAI12314 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in
English 1300 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The enemy barracks at Rub Kona in Bentiu have been raided by SPLA forces causing heavy losses of lives in the enemy ranks and an extensive damage to inflict [as heard]. Radio SPLA correspondent in the area says that several enemy fortifications including a 12.7-mm anti-aircraft gun emplacement were completely destroyed. A civilian DC-3 aircraft which was on the ground

was also set ablaze and completely destroyed during the raid that was carried out by the second company of Tahrir Battalion under the command of Captain Paul Tong (Wai) and the overall command of Major Dr Riak Majer Teng, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command and zonal commander for Western Upper Nile.

Twenty-five enemy soldiers have been killed and many others wounded in an ambush of SPLA units of Shark Battalion under overall command of Lt Col Bona Abang Dhol, about eight miles away from Wau Town on the 7th of April 1987. Correspondents for the Radio SPLA in the area say that the enemy forces were trying to advance from (Zira) where they had been held to Kawajena. Earlier, on the 5th of April 1987, the same enemy convoy of 33 cars was intercepted between (Preet) and (Zira) by SPLA units of Shark Battalion. One of the [word indistinct] making up the convoy was blown up by a landmine in which eight enemy soldiers were killed and ten others were wounded. The remaining cars were forced to return to Wau. Correspondent says that the enemy convoy was destined to Tonj to reinforce their besieged colleagues there.

Government Casualties

EA132229 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Ten enemy soldiers have been killed and 15 others seriously injured in a clash with the SPLA forces of Abyei Task Force, in Western Upper Nile, under overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Chuol Ayuwak, and direct command of Captain Philip Ajak Deng, on the 25th of March 1987, at Bonwar and (Nyane) areas respectively. One AKM rifle of the enemy, number 12272, was captured in good condition.

Fighters Repulse Soldiers

EA151203 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Bari 1120 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Excerpt] On 19 March, SPLA fighters based around Mundri repulsed heavily armed enemy soldiers who were approaching Mundri from Lainya. On the 24th of the same month, SPLA soldiers intercepted a land rover belonging to Khartoum Government soldiers on Lainya-Mundri road. The land rover was carrying 16 passengers. After interrogation by the SPLA, 13 of the passengers were released because they were innocent, while 3 of them are being held behind for further questioning. Those being questioned are Wesi Yogule, Gibson Rajabu Manae, and Paul Kanyaka. According to a radio SPLA correspondent in the area, SPLA soldiers around Mundri are presently explaining to the Moru tribes people the policy of the SPLA-SPLM. The correspondent added that the Moru people are responding well and have promised to cooperate with the SPLA in an effort to liberate their area.

SPLA Forces Capture Tonga Town

EA151227 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Some news just received: A correspondent for the Radio SPLA in Upper Nile has disclosed that SPLA forces of Koriom task force have dislodged the enemy forces from the town of Tonga near Malakal and occupied it. According to the correspondent, Tonga fell to the SPLA on 4 April 1987 after the hunger-stricken enemy troops clashed with SPLA forces a few miles from the town and were beaten back and forced to withdraw from the town.

Seven enemy soldiers were killed and five others injured in the fighting which Khartoum troops had started in an effort to break the prolonged SPLA siege of Tonga. Remnants of the enemy forces are believed to have fled to Pam and Malakal respectively. Our correspondent says that the Khartoum army garrison at Tonga had been under tight siege and was being subjected to constant harassment as a result of which it finally ran out of food stocks.

Antipersonnel Mines Kill Soldiers

EA151207 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Antipersonnel mines that had been planted near (Wotta Gueil) in Lau area of Bahr al-Ghazal killed three enemy militiamen and injured two others on 28 March 1987. The mines were laid by the engineer platoon of Eagle and Abyei task forces which operated under the direct command of Captain Philip Ajack Deng and overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Chuol Ayuwak.

Further Government Casualties

EA091300 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Apr 87

[Excerpts] SPLA forces have again clashed with al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's militia forces of (PAM) at (Ayolyol) in Atar area of upper Nile. Our correspondent says that 23 enemy militiamen died and several others were wounded in the course of the fighting which took place early last week and lasted for about three hours. An enemy Nile boat that was on its way to (PAM) was forced back to Malakal by the same SPLA forces of Abu Shawk and Sobat Battalions commanded by Captain (Moses Doeke).

/9738

CSO: 4500/85

BRIEFS

OIL RESERVES, GOLD PRODUCTION--Khartoum, 5 Apr (SUNA)--Energy and Mining Minister Dr Adam Madibbu has said that Sudan has 2 billion barrels of confirmed petroleum reserves, sufficient to meet local needs for 10 years. In a statement appearing in today's edition of Khartoum's--AL-AYYAM--, Madibbu said negotiations are still under way with the American Chevron Corporation so the firm may continue its exploration activities. He added that a group of experts from the company will arrive in the country in June to study the possibility of conducting prospecting and exploration operations in al-Muglad in western Sudan, Malut in southern Sudan, and the Blue Nile Region. On another level, the minister said that several oil prospecting corporations have expressed their readiness to operate in Sudan's Kordofan and Darfur Regions. As for gold prospecting, Dr Madibbu said Sudan will begin producing gold at commercial levels in June, and added that he expects the output of the Red Sea Hills mines to reach a ton a year. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 5 Apr 87 JN] /9738

AL-SIYASAH SUED FOR LIBEL--Khartoum, 12 Apr (SUNA)--Former Transitional Military Council Chairman 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Hasan Siwar-al-Dhahab has filed a libel suit against the daily AL-SIYASAH and the legal advisor of the paper (Lawyer) 'Abd-al-Wahhab Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab. The paper has published an article written by the legal advisor himself saying a U.S. Secret Service officer had visited Marshal Siwar-al-Dhahab at his home on the morning of the 6th of April 1985, date of the popular upheaval that toppled the regime of ousted President Numayri. The article hinted that the U.S. had intervened in the popular uprising events. Siwar-al-Dhahab who was then defense minister and general commander of the Armed Forces has repeatedly denied the allegation, saying that on the mentioned date he and other (TMC) members had been at the Armed Forces general headquarters and nobody could visit them due to the tension at that time. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 0950 GMT 12 Apr 87 JN] /9738

CSO: 4500/85

COUNTRY MAY IMPORT FROM CHINA

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Mar 87 p 20

[Article by Ken Schachter]

[Text]

TEL AVIV. - Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday intimated that he would approve imports from China if Peking opened its markets to Israeli goods.

Sharon did not refer to China directly, calling it instead "the big country," but ministry sources confirmed that he was speaking of China. "You want [us to] import, we're ready to import," Sharon said, while conditioning acceptance of Chinese goods on Peking's agreeing to take Israeli goods at equivalent value.

Imports, he said, should be used as a "tool" to encourage Israeli exports. "If they buy here, we shall allow imports," he added.

Sharon made his remarks at the Dan Hotel before about 150 members of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce.

In wide-ranging remarks, Sharon chided supermarkets and other retail

chains that are offering consumers credit extending for months. Rather than extend credit terms, he said, the chains should cut prices. He added, however, that his ministry would not interfere in the "credit fight."

He also disclosed that Israel's industrial exports totalled about \$6.3 billion in 1986 and that figures he has seen thus far for this year indicate that 1987 industrial exports could break the \$7b. mark.

To encourage continued growth, Sharon said, the government must take an active role. He said the \$85 million budget of the Office of the Chief Scientist should be quadrupled to enable Israel to maintain its edge in biotechnology, lasers and other fields. Further, he said, Israeli diplomats should support the export drive of the business community. As for his ministry, Sharon said, the two major goals are to increase exports and stimulate investment.

/13046
CSO: 4400/193

SURPRISE IDF CALL-UP EXERCISE HELD

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Mar 87 p 2

[Text]

The IDF yesterday held a surprise call-up exercise involving thousands of soldiers.

It was the first time in years that the IDF held such an exercise without giving advance notice. Quiet call-ups in which recruiters go from door-to-door summoning reservists, have been common, as well as exercises in which the IDF issues call-up orders on radio and television after giving several hours advance warning or even several days.

Yesterday afternoon and evening radio and TV broadcasted the order issued by Deputy Chief of General Staff Aluf Amir Drori.

A similar call-up in 1959 led to increased tension in the region because Israel's neighbours feared it was really mobilizing for an attack. Despite Israel's denial at the time of any such intention, the Syrians declared an alert and tension mounted. Subsequently, Aluf Yehoshefat Harkabi, then chief of Military Intelligence, and the Deputy Chief of General Staff Aluf Meir Zorea were dismissed by Minister of Defence David Ben-Gurion and forced to quit the army.

Yesterday's exercise coincided with the visit of the U.S. Secretary of the Army John Marsh. The Pentagon visitor had said here on Monday that he was particularly interested in

how Israel mobilizes its reserves, explaining that the U.S. relies heavily on its National Guard and reserves. "The reputation this country has for effective mobilization...is of great interest to me," Marsh said.

However, Chief of General Staff Moshe Levy, who visited a call-up centre last night, laughed off any suggestions that the timing was more than a coincidence. "There is certainly no connection," he said. Marsh "is not participating in any way in this exercise."

Marsh yesterday visited the Israel Aircraft Industries complex and was shown, among other things, a mine plough and a device installed in helicopters that helps to provide sharp pictures of terrain despite the helicopters' considerable vibration during flight.

IAI has been competing with several foreign companies for contracts to sell such items to the U.S. Army.

Marsh's hosts also described their ability to repair assault helicopters. IAI has repaired several U.S. Army assault helicopters in Europe, but those contracts were "not big," (an authoritative source told *The Jerusalem Post*). No agreements are expected during Marsh's visit, which has been described here as a study tour.

/13046

CSO: 4400/193

LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP COUP VIEWED

TA101655 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Apr 87 p b1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Getting the Guillotine Ready"]

[Text] A lot of hot air is filling the headlines of reports from Foreign Minister Peres' trip to Madrid and Rome. However, the real news, perhaps even the dramatic news, is brewing in his backyard, here at home. The Labor Party is quietly and cautiously preparing the guillotine for the Peres-Rabin pair.

Nobody will admit to this publicly and officially. Whispering-wise too they would admit only to "natural organizing" for the need of electing a new leadership in case the conclusions of the Pollard committees will force the two to draw the appropriate conclusions. Ostensible on the surface are four to six such active groupings, one of which includes Qeysar and Bar'am--both filling key positions in the party--side by side. Other groupings include personages such as Gad Ya'aqobi, Mordekhay Gur, and 'Ezer Weizman. All of them were Peres' supporters. Theoretically talk is only of "working plans" and "the need to be prepared for any eventuality." In practice matters seem more significant than just "contingency groupings." It is more accurate to describe this as creeping rebellion against the two official leaders who have headed the party since Golda Meir's resignation 13 years ago.

Nobody will admit that he is acting against Peres, but the very act of organizing and the harsh criticism leveled at him create a new situation of escaping from his sinking boat. The personages and bodies which are, as it were, preparing for the future are strongly critical of the leadership of Peres and Rabin. "They cannot benefit the party anymore," one of the critics says with clear disappointment. Others say they are tired of the way the two function in national and partisan affairs. "It is difficult to believe how, in such a short while, they could get entangled in so many affairs. The Pollard affair is a combination of idleness and mistakes. How could Ben-gurion's disciple dismiss three Shin Bet leaders who had uncovered grave corruption in this organization rather than lend them an attentive ear? And, what about the Kibbutzim affair [serious financial difficulties]? Balas [a bankrupt businessman who, upon detention for financial irregularities, incriminated the kibbutz movement, exposing financial dealings] and Reqanati

[member of the family which owns and runs Israel's Discount Bank, found guilty for his role in the regulated bank shares fall some years ago and who later, upon retirement, like other bank directors, received a huge retirement payment]?"

One of Peres' critics says: "The failure of the two lies mainly in performance. In the days of the fourth French republic Peres maneuvered between the French Defense and External Relations Ministries. However, this did not work during the fifth republic--De Gaulle kicked us out. How could Peres make such a mistake as to think--and reference is to the very grave Iranian affair--that he could maneuver between the U.S. Administration and Congress, according to techniques from the old days, thus jeopardizing our relations with the United States?"

Comments to the effect that "the party is sick of Peres and Rabin" are repeatedly heard in remarks by key Labor Party figures. The main criticism voiced against them is that the party does not have the feeling of upward momentum or emergence from downfall. "They have not repaired the short circuits between the party and the public at large, nor did they find a solution to the failures experienced by the party at the ballot boxes during the last three election campaigns. "The international conference issue and the possible en masse immigration from the USSR," they add, "are castles in the air in the meantime. The Spanish king will not help the party overcome its difficult problems."

Peres' problem lies in the secret polls which indicate that the Alignment has no chance of beating the Likud. "The very possibility that the Likud, which almost brought a disaster upon this country, and the Labor Party, which was supposed to rescue us from the Likud, will emerge on equal footing on election day is an unequivocal evidence for the failure of the leadership." The committees looking into the Pollard affair may be deterred from drawing clear-cut conclusions, but many activists who had previously supported Peres and Rabin do not hesitate to admit, in private conversations, that these two have reached the end of the road, "and if it is necessary for them to go, why not do it sooner than later?"

Pinhas Sapir [late Labor Party minister], when he was at the peak of his power and responsible for leading appointments in the party, used to say that he knew six to eight "members" fit to be prime minister. However, when names are mentioned today and when one hears about who considers himself fit to enter Peres' shoes, this either triggers a laugh or consternation. The only ones who do not laugh are the heirs apparent themselves. Each one of these would-be successors is moving about with a private opinion poll from which he draws both encouragement and inspiration. The term "they have no replacement is not new in the party; it was invented in each generation by the potentially replaceable people in an attempt to discourage their opponents. To come up with so many fiascoes as they have one need not be a genius--even mediocre or good-for-nothing people can do this."

It is pointed out that in every period there were indispensable people: Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan, Menahem Begin, and see what serious disasters they led the country into. Furthermore, who says it is impossible to find leaders whose names are not mentioned among those involved in the groupings? Was Rabin not introduced to the prime minister's office directly from the embassy in Washington, a thing he had not imagined in his fondest dreams? Were Peres himself, Dayan, Bar-leve, Mordekhay Gur, Weizman, and many more not introduced to indispensable person status directly from their civil service positions?

Today too one can surely think of six to eight candidates (like Sapir's slogan) whom the public has not heard about and who may reach the top. Would it be such a funny idea, for instance, to place at the head of the Labor Party an oriental Jew with extensive political experience, in a good standing, and an "activist" (as this party has always been) called Shlomo Hilel? "When the situation demands the replacements will be found. The moment one of them enters a big official car, with two motorcycles in front and an escort car behind, it will be forgotten that Peres had no replacement," to quote the comments of the organizers in the Labor Party.

The earth, all signs indicate, is beginning to burn under the feet of Peres and Rabin in their own court. If the only weapon they can think of in this situation is that they have no replacement they may be in an ever greater trouble than they may think. After all, the political cemeteries are full of indispensable people.

/9738
CSO: 4400/200

ECONOMIC CONDITION YIELDS GROWING NUMBER OF TRANSIENT WORKERS

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24 Feb 87 p 33

[Article: "Ninety Thousand Arabs work in Israeli Institutions to Survive"]

[Text] In Jerusalem, the al-Rijal market has become well-known. Extending on the pavement from Bab al-Zahirah until Bab al-'Amud, it has its center by one of the corners of the old bus station near the popular Abu 'Adil cafe. Here, men of all ages from the areas surrounding the hold city gather every day.

The reality is that the "Transient Workers' phenomenon, whether on the West Bank or in the Gaza Strip, did not develop with the occupation. Before 1967, these areas suffered from some unemployment, but the collapse of the economy under the practiced Israeli oppression, persecution and destruction policy made this a principal characteristic of the cities and villages of the occupied territories.

In 1970, about 20,000 Arab workers had to work in Israeli factories and farms because of the bad economic conditions. In 1984 that number reached 90,000. This represents a third of the work force of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The other two-thirds work within the occupied territories or in nearby Arab countries, especially those of the Gulf.

As is well-known, work in the Israeli factories, institutions and farms was quasi-forbidden in the first years of the occupation, in accordance with the slogan which said that for every Arab worker in Israel's factories, an Israeli will go to the front. The passage of time, however, as well as the worsening of the economic crisis and the lack of sufficient Arab aid obliged many to accept reality and go to work in the Israeli factories and farms so that they may feed their families.

Compelling Circumstances

Thus the Palestinian detachments that resorted in the beginning to bombings and attacks on buses to prevent Arab workers from going to Israeli factories and farms, have dropped that policy and have been obliged to remain silent on a subject that was previously considered to be an unforgivable act of national treason.

Despite the fact that thousands of Arab workers are employed in Israeli institutions, statistics published in the occupied territories show a 10 percent rate of unemployment among the working class inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and 20 percent among college graduates. The statistics indicate that the number of transient workers that gather daily on the street pavements looking for work in Israel and in Israeli institutions ranges from 30,000 to 50,000 workers.

These same statistics indicate that 15,000 college graduates do not work within their field of study. Some 10,000 of them join the transient workers on the pavements in search for a job.

The statistics also show that about 80 percent of Arab workers driven by hunger to work in the Israeli institutions were originally poor farmers whose lands have been taken away by Israeli settlements and workers that could not find work in the tight job markets of the cities of the occupied territories.

Even though the Israeli authorities try to show "concern" for these workers, and despite the fact that Moshe Kassab, the Israeli labor minister, made several statements about the urgent need to hasten the organization of this sector so as to prevent Israeli employers from taking advantage of occupied territories' workers and denying them their rights, the daily events confirm the magnitude of their tragedy.

Half Pay

The wages of a Palestinian worker, for instance, are half those of an Israeli worker performing the same job. While the monthly salary of an Israeli worker ranges from US\$333 to US\$533, that of a Palestinian workers does not exceed US\$133. Taxes deducted from the salary of an Israeli employee and totaling 20 percent thereof, return to him/her in the form of savings and social benefits while the Palestinian employee loses what is deducted and thus is paying, in effect, an occupation tax to the Israeli treasury.

Further, the Arab worker is often the victim of fraud when Israeli employers deduct a portion of his salary claiming it goes to pay for insurance against emergencies and work accidents. The worker soon discovers, however, that his insurance policy is a forgery or that the insurance company does not exist.

Given the conditions under which Arab workers work inside Israel, the phenomenon of transient workers leads to a host of social problems. Indiscriminately and unfairly laid off Arab workers are prohibited from residing within the area occupied since 1948. They thus face additional oppression through barricades, raids, and other forms of daily humiliation everywhere and at all times.

The workers who have obtained a permission to reside inside occupied Palestine since 1948 live in inhumane conditions too. They are obliged to live in large groups in run down buildings and basements and are daily prey to policy harassment and racial violence at the hands of extremist jewish factions.

Given the large distances that separate the Palestinian towns and villages from the workers' place of work in the Israeli institutions, many of those who are not permitted to reside inside 1948-occupied Palestine are obliged to take shelter in the caves and old abandoned houses of Arab villages bordering the Green Line (the line of occupation in 1967).

13314/12851
CSO: 4404/288

ARAB ECONOMY CONTINUES TO DECLINE ON WEST BANK

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Mar 87 pp 36, 37

[Article by Mu'in Diab: "Striking at What is left of Arab Economy in Palestine"]

[Text] In 1951, Uri Lubrani, then Arab Affairs counselor to the Israeli government, declared that Israel "should pursue the changing of Arabs into lumberjacks and waterers." At the time, the Zionists followed the fascist theory which said that it is easier to govern and colonize illiterate people than educated ones. Thirty five years later, Meir Kahane, head of the Kach movement, declares: "We spend and throw in the air tens of billions of shekels every year in order to improve the conditions of the inhabitants of the Arab areas. Had they not existed, we would have enough funds to improve the conditions of poor Jews and to establish settlements in the liberated areas."

Lubrani's declaration was in support of the policy of destroying Arab culture. Kahane's declaration was in support of the policy of destroying what is left of the Arab economic structure in Palestine, and more specifically, on the West Bank. Today, news of important disagreements in the Israeli government is reported. Its title is political but its content is imperialist and economic, and is based on the divergence of opinions regarding the establishment of more settlements (27 of them established to date). Peres thinks that Israel's current economic conditions do not permit the establishment of more settlements, while Shamir declares to a delegation of Soviet Jews that "the settlement is the lung that helps Israel breathe" (HA'ARETZ 12.9.1986).

What was mentioned brings the following question to the forefront: Why the insistence on the economy of the West Bank? First of all, it should be said that the establishment of settlements on the West Bank does not translate into relief for the economy of the Zionist entity. On the contrary, it leads to added monetary costs and expenditures from a quasi-broke treasury on a quasi-established structure. It is undoubtedly the scope of the occupation theory since it was first formulated in Basle, Switzerland in 1897 -- if one may say so -- that has been the controlling factor, wholly or partially, in dealing with the occupied Palestinian Arab territories and other occupied areas. The clearest indication thereof is the continuation of the practice of merging Arab institutions and economic sectors with the power of the

military machinery despite all the lies about peace and the projects of "pacific" solutions starting with the Arima State project (in the mid-seventies), ending with the Gaza Strip project they are now discussing (Al-Shawa project), and passing through the various projects among which was Moshe Dayan's project prescribing that Israel give up the West Bank in return for the settlement of the Palestinians in their respective places of residence at the time. Returning to the question, we find that the most immediate answer is that the West Bank has an Arab population that was operating in an economic mode that constituted the lowest level of a structure that is readily developed in a future solution project. Yet this answer, despite its truthfulness, collides with a very negative reality embodied in the organized mutilation operations directed by the Zionist entity's services against the economy of the West Bank in preparation for engulfing and merging it permanently in the Israeli economy... How?

According to the 1985 census, 790,000 Arab citizens live today on the West Bank -- the number would have exceeded 1,000,000 if it were not for the oppression that has obliged many to leave. Dr Shahadah al-Dajjani says that the West Bank had about 934,547 inhabitants before 1967. The number declined to 603,000 in 1968 and reached only 704,000 in 1980. This means that the yearly rate of increase did not exceed 1.2 percent during the first 2 years of occupation, and decreased the last year to only 1 percent.

The forced emigration of Arab residents was accompanied by the restriction of job opportunities for young men and the 12,000 graduates. This is proof that the highest absorption of workers of the occupied territories is in the area of unskilled labor. The picture becomes clearer when an Israeli report indicates that among the 4,000 unemployed graduates, 3,600 are less than 30 years of age (about 90 percent of youth -- precisely what the various occupation policies aim at).

This emigration is a double-edged sword. Negative for the economy of the West Bank and positive for the Zionist entity. The remittances of overseas workers -- especially in the Gulf -- is in the millions of dollars annually. These millions enter the Israeli monetary system because of the regulations restricting West Bank imports to Israeli products and commodities. In 1980, for instance, the West Bank imported 32,695 tons of Israeli watermelons -- about half of Israel's total exports that same year. Of the West Bank's labor force, 50 percent is employed in construction, 21.7 percent in public services and non-productive sectors, and the rest are employed in agriculture and industry and continue to work in bad conditions. Reports show that Arab workers in the various sectors are paid on a daily basis and there seem to be no possibilities for change in the direction of job security through extending the period of validity of work permits for workers from the occupied territories, or permitting them to exercise their union rights to obtain the minimal requirements of medical insurance, raises, family allowances, vacations, etc.

This situation prompted an international report to say that "the conditions that favor true personal development are still not present in the occupied

Arab territories. The abuse of the Arab labor force in Israel is a basic part of the reality of social and economic life there" (Report on the occupied territories issued by the International Labor Office on 14-15 June 1986).

Agriculture and its Basis...Water

By striking at man, the primary basis for development, through forced migration or work change, the occupation authorities were then able to strike at the various economic sectors directly. It is a known fact that agriculture was the principal production activity for about 70 percent of the people. Meron Benetsetti, supervisor of a center for West Bank and Gaza Strip study, says that Israeli settlements now extend over 52 percent of the West Bank's land. In other words, that 45,000 Israeli settlers, only 4.5 percent of the total population, live on and exploit more than half the land, while 790,000 Palestinians live on less than half of the land.

A quick look at the Israeli settlements on the West Bank shows that their locations were not decided upon haphazardly, but were rather designed to separate Arab towns by erecting human barriers within the Arab demographic framework, not around it. While this yielded positive political results to the occupation authorities, it has simultaneously established the formula of economic and political integration whereby Israel has controlled water with the excuse that it is the lifeline of the settlements. It has regulated it (the Jordan River) and offered it to the Arab citizens "by dropper" through the imposition of conditions and laws that apply even to pumping from wells. Anyone proven to have pumped out of a well more than he was allowed to is punished. Permits for new wells for Arab agricultural lands are almost not available, whence that only about 3 percent of arable lands are irrigated. The rest depend on rainfall thus causing the lack of the productive capacity and its constant reduction. A French economist said that he had never seen a stronger contrast than the one he found in Israel. "On Arab farms, a father scolds his son for watering the vegetables more than needed given the austerity, while in the settlements an Israeli family changes the water of its private swimming pool more than three times a day -- enough water to water the vegetables in an Arab garden" (PROVENCAL FRANCAISE 2/2/84).

Studies indicate that of 830 million cubic meters of water, the West Bank Arabs use only 100 million cubic meters. The rest is "technologically" diverted to the Israeli agricultural sector which uses more than three-quarters of the water supply every year. This has led to the deprivation of Arab agriculture of irrigated lands.

The disposal of production was further submitted to arbitrary Israeli regulations whereby the West Bank's agriculture is more integrated in than differentiated from the Israeli agricultural sector. This sector has been directed to serve the needs of the Israeli entity rather than those of the West Bank inhabitants. West Bank agricultural products were sold intensively in the Arab countries -- especially in Jordan -- but, after 1967, the Israelis

have imposed new production modes that are more compatible with their economic planning. Fruit production has decreased while the production of crops needed as raw materials in Israel (e.g., sesame, cotton, tobacco) has increased. While the total arable land area has decreased by 73,000 dunums since 1967, the sesame producing area has increased from 18,000 dunums in 1968 to 207,000 dunums in 1974. Similarly, the tobacco producing area has increased from 4,500 dunums in 1968 to 50,000 dunums in 1974.

Industry and Services

What is true about agriculture is more so about industry. Industrial production on the West Bank has not improved -- on the contrary. Conditions are slowly eliminating the potential for any future industrial activity. The civilian administration yearly report indicates that the West Bank has 2,410 industrial projects employing 8,550 persons, including business owners. This means that the average number of employees per project is no more than four.

Most industrial sector work on the West Bank is concentrated in the olive presses, quarries, and other seasonal activities -- not in true industrial occupations. Even the reports published by the occupation authorities indicate that 25 percent of all employees work in the textile industry which is totally (98 percent) dominated by a group of Israeli contractors and producers serving the needs of the Israeli market.

As to the export and import of industrial goods, the situation is similar to that which is encountered in agriculture. The civilian administration's private report says that the supervision of the regulation of industry and commerce on the West Bank is the prerogative of the public authorities. It is enough to mention the decrease in West Bank exports for a decade (1975-85) and the restrictions that limit importation to goods from Israel or to those arriving through Israeli intermediaries. There is no sign that import and export regulations now imposed on the West Bank by the occupation authorities would change. What is said about agriculture and industry applies as well to public services, independent professions, water, electric power, social agencies, customs, education, and the system of compensation, pension, and conditions for work. The Arab pays the same taxes as does the Israeli and yet the benefits offered the latter are four times more than those offered to the Arab. The 1986 United Nations report indicates a noticeable distinction in the way people are treated, work is organized, and promotions are granted.

Return to the Start

Despite the fact that the inhabitant of a new settlement on the West Bank costs 140 percent more than the ordinary Israeli, despite a 22 percent increase in the deficit of the Israeli balance of trade, despite a 10 percent devaluation of the Israeli Shekel, and despite a 20 percent rise in prices, the arrogant Israeli policy which does not even take into consideration the logic of worsening economic conditions in an entity whose Ministry of Defense has a 70 percent share of its total budget insists on striking at the economy of the West Bank and on building more settlements.

Why the West Bank's economy? Perhaps it would be better, respecting methodology, that the question be: Why is the West Bank's economy still capable of growth when the Israeli entity could merge it with its own economic cycle? Earlier, Israel's strategy for dealing with the West Bank had two objectives: That the West Bank does not become a burden on the Israeli economy and that the West Bank's economy does not compete with Israel's. Today, however, Israel is about to formulate a new strategy now that the West Bank is very close to being "realistically" annexed. The West Bank's economy needs now more than ever before an Arab plan of help that goes beyond the "Trust for the Support of the Occupied Territories."

13314/12851
CSO: 4404/288

BRIEFS

MINISTER TO VISIT POLAND--Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer has been invited to Poland. This is the first such visit extended since Poland severed its ties with Israel 20 years ago. The invitation was conveyed by Avi Becker, the director general of the World Jewish Congress, who is currently visiting Warsaw and who conferred with the Polish minister of the Office of Religious Affairs, Adam Lopatka. Some 6,000 Jews currently reside in Poland. The Polish minister told Avi Becker that the Israeli religious affairs minister could come and see for himself that the Jews there enjoy freedom of religion. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Mar 87 TA] /9738

ITALIAN-POLISH TRADING FIRM--There has been another development in trade relations between Israel and Poland. A Voice of Israel reporter says that next month a joint Italian-Polish trading firm, backed by the Warsaw Government, will open offices in Tel Aviv. The director of the firm, a Polish citizen, will take up residence in Israel. Our reporter says that the number of commercial deals signed between Israel and Poland has increased of late. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Apr 87 TA] /9738

TRADE DEFICIT INCREASES--Israel's trade deficit increased by 14 percent in the first quarter of the year compared with the last quarter of 1986. Our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that the Central Bureau of Statistics data show that the increase was mainly caused by the increase in imports. Our correspondent also reports that in the first quarter of 1987 exports increased by 7 percent compared with the previous quarter. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Apr 87 TA] /9738

RISE IN TOURISM--Some 300,000 tourists came to Israel in the first quarter of 1987, a 13-percent increase over the same period last year. The number of tourists from Egypt increased by 32 percent during the same period. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Apr 87 TA] /9738

IDF MANPOWER, WEAPONS STATISTICS--The IDF's manpower, both standing army and reserves, currently stands at 540,000 soldiers, of whom 440,000 are in the ground forces, 80,000 in the Air Force, and 20,000 in the Navy. There are 340,000 soldiers in the standing army. These statistics appear in an official publication currently being issued by the IDF and are based on statistics

from Tel Aviv University's Center for Strategic Studies. Further statistics included in the publication deal with the weapons at the IDF's disposal. According to these statistics, the IDF has 250 Merkava tanks, 200 M-60 A-3 tanks, 150 T-62's, 3,050 other tanks, 8,000 armored personnel carriers, 9,000 artillery nests, 18 Chaparral missile launchers, 900 nests of antiaircraft weapons, 640 fighter planes of which 160 are Phantoms and 180 Kfirs, 55 assault helicopters, 4 Hawkeye early warning planes, 2-4 Mohawk early warning planes, and other items. [Report by Yosef Walter] [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Apr 87 p 1 TA] /9738

THEATER COMPANY TO BUDAPEST--'Omri Nitzan, the Habima Theater's art director, and actor Avraham Konay, who serves as secretary of the Association for Advancement of Israeli-Hungarian Relations, returned yesterday from a visit to Budapest in response to an official invitation. Miklos Pandi, head of the cultural division at the Hungarian Ministry of Culture and Education, yesterday extended an invitation to the Habima company to appear in Budapest in September. The Habima representatives invited the Hungarian National Theater to appear during the celebrations marking Habima's 70th anniversary and Israel's 40th Independence Day. [Report by Natan Zehavi] [Text] [Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Apr 87 p 3 TA] /9738

WEEKLY PAPER CHANGES TO DAILY--The East Jerusalem AL-NAHAR weekly is to begin daily publication today. The daily appearance of AL-NAHAR, considered a pro-Jordanian paper, is an apparent attempt to compete directly with the pro-PLO Arabic press in the territories. Publisher 'Uthman al-Hallaq said the daily would have 12 pages of news and features, and would be printed at the paper's new press. The staff of AL-NAHAR has been expanded, he said. [By Joel Greenberg] [Text] [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Apr 87 p 2] /8309

MOROCCAN KING WARNED--Beirut, 11 April--The Beirut-based weekly magazine AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI has reported that a mission of senior Israeli intelligence officers have arrived in Rabat [to] bring King Hassan II information connected with an alleged attempt to assassinate him. According to the magazine, "the information brought by the enemy officers indicates that the attempt was planned most carefully by a Middle East quarter and could be one of several plans drawn up for the purpose." The magazine also reported that a precise, true coordination has existed between Rabat and Tel Aviv since the Zionist Shim'on Peres' visit to Morocco and his meeting with King Hassan II. [Text] [Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Apr 87] /8309

DECREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT--Over the last 15 months there has been a considerable decrease in unemployment and a significant increase in the number of job opportunities. This emerges from data issued by the Bank of Israel Research Department. The Bank of Israel data show that since the beginning of 1986, there has been a 15.2-percent decrease in the number of people looking for work, compared with an increase of some 10 percent in 1985. [Excerpt] [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Apr 87 p 1 TA] /8309

ISRAEL-PHILIPPINES AGREEMENT--Israel and the Philippines this morning signed a tourism agreement promoting cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two countries. Signing for Manila was Minister of Tourism Jose Antonio Gonzales, who is currently visiting Israel. [Excerpt] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Apr 87 TA] /8309

FOREIGN DEBTS INCREASE--Israel's foreign debts rose by more than \$800 million last year. This mainly stems from the fall of the dollar in comparison with the European currencies. Bank of Israel figures indicate that at the end of last year Israel's foreign debts amounted to almost \$25 billion. During the present fiscal year Israel will repay debts amounting to \$3.3 billion. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Apr 87 TA] /8309

CSO: 4400/194

NEW MARKETS FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN THIRD WORLD

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 28 Mar 87 p 13

[Text]

THE Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has signed contracts to supply a number of African and Asian countries with petroleum products over a three-year period, according to a company official.

Abdullah Al Roumi, assistant sales managing director for the eastern hemisphere, said KPC was selling two million tons of products to Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Indian Ocean islands, and had also managed to open markets in industrialized states and developing countries previously monopolized by multinationals.

Important inroads had been made in Asian markets, with Pakistan alone importing about 2.5 million tons of petrochemicals a year, he stated.

Products

Al Roumi said 39 percent of Kuwaiti petroleum products went to Western Europe, 20 percent to South Asia, 18 percent to the Far East, eight percent each to Japan and the Middle East, five percent to Africa and over two percent to the United States.

The KPC official emphasized that all crude sale contracts signed by Kuwait were based on a price of \$16.67 per barrel in line with Opec's price and production accord reached in Geneva last December.

He said any obstacles experienced by Kuwait in marketing its crude flowed from the "lack of response" by non-Opec countries to Opec efforts to limit production and sell at fixed prices.

/9317
CSO: 4400/197

ECONOMY MINISTER DISCUSSES LEBANESE EXHIBITION IN LONDON

Beirut AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 27 Mar 87 p 43

[Interview with Victor Qasir, minister of economy and trade, by correspondent "W.A.M." in London, date not specified]

[Text] The London exhibition "Lebanon: Business Not War" offered a look at Lebanon's economy and industry that was unexpected in the West in light of the difficult circumstances that Lebanon is passing through. The exhibition was opened by the Lebanese minister of economy, trade, and industry, Victor Qasir, on 17 March. In addendance were the British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, Timothy Renton; Lebanon's ambassador in London, Major General Ahmad al-Hajj; the head of the Arab-British chamber of commerce, Richard Beaumont; the secretary general of the chamber, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Mudris; and the head of the Lebanese section of the chamber, George 'Asayli. The official Lebanese delegation included the head of the chamber of commerce and industry in Beirut, 'Adnan al-Qassar; Messrs Gabriel Badreau, Ilyas Saba, Muhyi-al-Din al-Qaysi; and a large contingent of British and Arab businessmen and economists.

The Lebanese exhibits, especially the pottery-ware, impressed the British visitors, and led the British secretary of state for foreign affairs to express his admiration of the Lebanese economy's ability to endure under the difficult circumstances that it is experiencing, and he mentioned that the volume of trade between the two countries had increased noticeably over the past year. On the occasion of this exhibition AL-HAWADITH met with the Lebanese minister of economy, Victor Qasir, and had the following interview with him.

[Question] Do you expect that the exhibition of Lebanese industries will give new impetus to Lebanese-British trade relations; specifically, will it be a stimulus for manufactured Lebanese exports to the United Kingdom?

[Answer] The fact is that the fair was held at the right time, and it is enough that it has affirmed the steadfastness and vitality of the Lebanese people. There is no doubt that the Lebanese person who has withstood 12 years of his country's ordeal is worthy of life and does not fear for his future, for even though destructive elements are often not more than 500 meters from his factory or his field, you see him devoted to production and work, and that is a sight rarely seen in any of the countries of the world.

It is no secret that the foreigners who visit Lebanon under the present circumstances express their surprise at this unbelievable phenomenon. We also thank God that some Lebanese regions still enjoy relative security which enables them to freely carry on production and its development.

As for setting up the exhibition under these particular circumstances, the essential purpose behind that was to send a message first and foremost. The message that we are sending abroad is that Lebanon is not done for, as some of the foreign media imagine, but rather that it still exists and is still productive. No doubt concentrating on Lebanon's productive existence will encourage demand for Lebanese products.

In this respect it should be pointed out that Lebanese exports now have a golden opportunity to penetrate world markets, since the low cost of the Lebanese currency and thus of Lebanese labour make our products seriously competitive with similar products from other countries, and it is no secret that Lebanon used to be one of the most expensive countries in the world but has now become one of the cheapest. In spite of that we have high hopes that the return of harmony and stability to Lebanon will bring about a return of the Lebanese currency to its actual value. Doubtless the confidence factor is an essential factor in fixing the price of the Lebanese pound at the present time. As long as the Lebanese remain worried about the political future of their country, the Lebanese currency will remain subject to psychological influences, and the Lebanese will continue to be cautious about their investments and activities in their nation.

[Question] What is your personal evaluation of Lebanon's financial situation?

[Answer] Lebanon's financial position is still excellent. In spite of all the calamities and destruction, it is still standing on its own two feet, and it still has a gold reserve covering more than three times its monetary assets and its liabilities. Moreover, its foreign debt is relatively small, and its domestic debt can be repaid with about a fourth of the gold reserve. In addition to that, deposits by Lebanese in foreign currency make up two-thirds of their balances in Lebanese banks, while only a third is in Lebanese currency; that is not counting foreign deposits belonging to Lebanese, and these are huge, as we know. So what is needed now is for confidence in the political future of the country to return so that these funds will return to the nation and play a role in its rebuilding and in the renewed prosperity of its industries.

[Question] The European Common Market states have previously expressed their readiness to help Lebanese industries. What has happened in this area?

[Answer] In fact, the Ministry of Industry spent 12 years thinking about conducting a complete survey of Lebanese industries. When I took over the reins of the ministry, I concentrated my efforts on getting this survey done, and it has in fact been accomplished. About 8 months ago the Common Market sent an official of ambassadorial rank to visit all of Lebanon's regions,

and after he had returned to his country the Market sent another envoy to continue the mission. The ultimate goal behind the survey is to make up a complete file on every factory and plant in Lebanon to show foreign importers that these plants are capable of meeting their obligations towards European importers. When these files are completed, the Common Market will be able to help Lebanese industry, either through loans offered to the industrial sector, or by encouraging importation from these plants.

[Question] What is the current situation surrounding our manufactured exports, and is there Arab support for Lebanese exports under these difficult circumstances?

[Answer] With respect to our prices that compete with European products, whether with respect to the pound or to labor, Lebanese exports are experiencing a tangible resurgence at the present time. Our exports go to West Germany, France, and Britain, and we hope that the London fair will help the growth of exports to Britain. As for exports to Arab states, these are continuing, but unfortunately political considerations play a role in our commercial relations with the Arab states. We hope that the policies of the Arab states will come to a common agreement, whereupon the doors of all Arab states will be opened to our exports. In fact, this political consideration is one of the important incentives for diversifying our foreign markets; and the available areas are very good.

[Question] Earlier Your Excellency cancelled official subsidy of fuels. The prevailing view was that cancelling the subsidy would strengthen the exchange rate of the pound to the dollar, but experience has shown that cancelling the subsidy did not greatly affect the pound's situation. Today there is renewed discussion about cancelling the rest of the official subsidy of fuels and wheat, so what is the new justification?

[Answer] Actually, the basic reason for cancelling the subsidy was to relieve the state of expenses that had become burdensome to it. As you know, the state has a financial deficit and Lebanese citizens are not paying their taxes or even the public service fees for water, electricity, and telephone. When the exchange rate of the dollar to the pound was reasonable, the subsidy was tolerable. When we cancelled a portion of the subsidy we were buying crude oil for between \$10 and \$12 a barrel, and the exchange rate of the dollar was around 40 pounds, but nowadays a barrel of oil has come to cost around \$18, and the exchange rate of the dollar has risen over 100 pounds. That means that the state was suffering huge financial losses because of the policy of subsidization, losses on which a limit had to be placed. Even though this matter is within my authority, I personally asked that the president of the republic, the prime minister, and the finance minister sign the decree to cancel the subsidy with me, so that the decree would be closer to an edict than a resolution, in light of the absence of cabinet meetings. This decree is still being discussed, but I hope that it will be published quickly.

[Question] But it seems that the official inclination is towards completely removing the subsidy?

[Answer] That is true with respect to the subsidy on fuels; as for the bread subsidy, we will not touch on it, in spite of the financial burden on the treasury because of it. To give an idea of that, I would say that the price of a ton of wheat varies, depending on the price of the dollar, between 12,000 and 15,000 pounds, and we distribute it to the mills at 468 pounds; in other words, a ton of wheat that costs \$120 is distributed at a cost of only \$4, even though the \$4 does not include the costs arising from transporting this wheat, milling it, distributing it to the bakeries, and transporting to the various regions of Lebanon. In fact, the cost of milling alone is more than \$4 a ton, and that is not counting administrative costs, employees' salaries, and the rate for shipping it to the regions.

[Question] What is the total cost of the subsidies?

[Answer] The state is currently spending about \$160 million a year on the wheat subsidy, and about \$450 million on the gasoline subsidy. The exchange rate of the dollar in Beirut is now more than 100 pounds, so by simple calculation we see just how huge these losses are that the state is sustaining because of the subsidization policy.

The problem is not with gasoline as much as it is with the fuel that is needed for the electrical generating stations, and mazut [heavy oil], which is essential for heating, factories, bakeries, and hospitals. And I will not hide from you the fact that an ample portion of the subsidized mazut, as well as gasoline, is still being smuggled abroad by sea, and sold by merchants at the expense of the Lebanese treasury and the Lebanese pound!

12547/12851
CSO: 4404/305

MUFTI DISCUSSES ROLE OF PRESIDENCY, SYRIANS

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 22 Mar 87 p 1

[Article: "Mufti Khalid: No Islamic or Christian Nation in Lebanon"]

[Text] The mufti of the republic, Shaykh Hasan Khalid, declared that the Moslems have the right to reject the establishment of a Christian national home in Lebanon, and the Christians have the right to reject the establishment of an Islamic home. He said that the Moslems did not oppose a Christian presence at the head of the government, but they always have opposed its practices and its mistakes, which led to the assumption of dominance by one group over another.

In a comprehensive conversation with AL-SAFIR, in the context of "a dialogue for the sake of unity" which it began last week with a conversation with the Maronite patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sufayr, the mufti stressed that the declaration of what he described as "Islamic points to be taken for granted," that Lebanon is an ultimate nation, has not receive what it merited from the other party "and unfortunately our Christian brothers have not expressed through their actions anything that would speak of their conviction." However, he expressed his hope that this would take place sincerely and positively and that that would be reflected in the course of negotiations and cooperation among Lebanese.

Mufti Khalid stated that he could not reconcile considering the president a head of the executive power, while he cannot be held to account, according to the constitution, and said that he was in favor of giving the president powers similar to those of the president in France, provided that the top position in the executive power go to the prime minister. Otherwise, we should then talk frankly about the presidential system. He added that there could be no participation on the rule that a faction should control the other factions: "That is dictatorial government."

Mufti Khalid declared that restricting the executive power to the council of ministers as a whole, as is now being proposed, was acceptable, but there were doubts about the viability of that sort of system of government. He said that every Lebanese must take part in resisting Israel and perhaps in expelling it from Lebanese territory and ending the occupation, but that the Lebanese settlement must not wait for that; rather, it was possible to proceed with the two processes together -- "indeed, how can we get rid of the enemy unless we have a single system and a single society?"

concerning relations with Syria, he said that they must go back to where they were before 1950, that is, before the rupture in the days of Khalid al-Azm. He added that Syria had a security and political role for which it was to be thanked which it was now carrying out in Lebanon, and no solution to the Lebanese crisis would be possible without friendly Syrian help.

Concerning the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, he said that the Lebanese and the Arabs all had erred in dealing with the Palestinians in the past, and in the present as well.

He added that it was necessary to lift the present blockade of the Palestinian camps and at the same time prevent the Palestinians from bearing arms in the streets or assaulting people with them. He said that protecting Palestinians from Israeli attack must be the responsibility of the Lebanese government.

11887
CSO: 4404/314

DRUZE LEADER COMPLAINS ABOUT PRESIDENT, FACTIONS, SITUATION

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 10 Apr 87 pp 16, 17

[Interview with Progressive Socialist Party Chairman Walid Jumblatt by Walid Abu Murshid: "No 'Cantons' in Lebanon, Especially Palestinian Ones"]

[Text] The prominent characteristic of the Lebanese leader Walid Jumblatt's style is absolute frankness and boldness in declaring views and taking positions. In this regard, Walid Jumblatt is considered a rich treasure for the press and journalists wherever he descends or appears. His recent visit to London, by official invitation of the British Foreign Ministry, was another occasion for the Arab and Western press to rush after him, eager for a forthright view and interesting conversation.

His crowded official program and his numerous contacts did not prevent him from allotting to AL-HAWADITH part of his time, which he snatched out between one appointment and another, and this frank interview took place:

AL-HAWADITH: We have learned that your visit to London is an official one, a response to the first official invitation the British government has directly sent to a Lebanese minister, and, while taking into account your distinctive position on the Lebanese and Arab scenes and those of international socialism, it is necessary to calculate the true political significance of an invitation such as this, issued by a country that has deep-rooted diplomatic traditions. Could one consider the visit a sign of a shift in the British approach for dealing with the Lebanese problem?

Walid Jumblatt: I would like to state that this is my second official visit to Britain. The first one took place before I became minister, and therefore I do not believe that the invitation now has special political dimensions.

AL-HAWADITH: On your way to London, you passed through Damascus and had contacts with Syrian officials. Does your visit have a connection with mediation between Syria and Britain?

Walid Jumblatt: Not at all. The purpose of my visit is to explain my position as a person in charge of the Progressive Socialist Party and the leftist alliance in Lebanon, and also as a representative of a small group in Lebanon called the Druzes, only.

AL-HAWADITH: In the West there is talk about an international conference on the Middle East. Do you believe that the solution to the Lebanese problem is now linked to an international conference or an international solution, or can it be taken apart from the Middle East issue?

Walid Jumblatt: We would like to separate the Lebanese problem from the Middle East issue, but this problem is now connected to the Middle East issue in one form or another, since Israel is present in southern Lebanon and is using some Lebanese, specifically the Phalange Party, for its destructive purposes. At the same time, no international conference on the Middle East held in current circumstances can be in favor of the Arabs, since the balance of power in the region is not in favor of the Arabs now. In such circumstances, the conference and its conclusions would be in the favor of Israel and the West. In spite of that, we consider the conference useful if it will lead subsequently to the establishment of the Palestinian state on the bank and in the strip -- or what is actually left of them, since Jewish settlement is going on at full speed on the bank and in the strip. In my opinion, the settlement policy will also be applied in the south of Lebanon, most unfortunately.

AL-HAWADITH: It has been noted that the Syrian forces have not gone into the southern suburbs and have not yet put an end to the war of the camps. What are your expectations in these two areas?

Walid Jumblatt: I am not qualified to reply to that question, but I hope, of course, that the war of the camps will be concluded in everyone's favor. As to the subject of the suburbs, I have no connection with that.

AL-HAWADITH: The proposal to apply the greater Beirut plan has been presented again. Are you in favor of it as it has been presented?

Walid Jumblatt: Carrying out the greater Beirut plan means restoring credit to what is called the Lebanese army, and my basic objection is to this army. Before carrying out the greater Beirut plan, it will be necessary to rehabilitate the Lebanese army in the domestic and Arab senses. As for carrying out greater Beirut just to reinstate the army's responsibility in preserving the security in greater Beirut and lesser Beirut once more, I am not in favor of that.

AL-HAWADITH: Rumors have been circulating about a Palestinian "canton" plan in Sidon and its surrounding area. What is the extent of the truth of these rumors?

Walid Jumblatt: The total opposite is correct. The Palestinian camps in Lebanon are gradually shrinking, so how can one establish a Palestinian "canton" in Lebanon? Moreover, is it possible, at all, to establish "cantons" in Lebanon? I do not believe that it is possible to establish any "canton" in Lebanon, especially a Palestinian one.

AL-HAWADITH: In the economic context, an ongoing deterioration has been observed in the value of the Lebanese pound. We all know that the reasons for that are numerous and various, but one of the most prominent of them is the

prolongation of unviable government spending and the contraction of the government's revenues, especially customs revenues, because of the shutdown of the airport and smuggling through the illegal ports. What is your view regarding this existing situation and the gloomy economic future if the situation continues in this manner?

Walid Jumblatt: It is unfortunate that the collapse of the Lebanese pound will lead to the collapse of Lebanon's remaining independence and perseverance. This situation will enable Israel, especially in the south, to attract further cheap Lebanese labor to work in the factories in the north of Israel and the farms of the Galilee area. The Israelis pay laborers a wage of \$200 a month and they pay every one of Antoine Lahad's soldiers a salary of \$100 a month. The sum of \$100 or \$200 might be minor relative to Israeli salaries and laborers, but as far as Lebanon goes \$100 equal 10,000 Lebanese pounds and more, unfortunately. We are in favor of the opening of the airport, shutting down the illegal ports and giving the government its rights, but we of course demand that this government distribute the revenues from these facilities in a just manner to poor and backward Lebanese regions like the al-Biqa', 'Akkar, the south and part of the mountain. If the revenues from these facilities start accumulating in the region of Juniyah and its neighboring areas again, we will be reverting to our previous situation and will not benefit at all from our experience.

AL-HAWADITH: By the way, we have been informed that the Lebanese government has allocated massive sums to the army recently. Where will these allocations be drawn from?

Walid Jumblatt: What happened was that recourse was made to a pretext that the army had no longer had sufficient food and 1.7 billion Lebanese pounds had been spent on it! I am amazed how this incident slipped by Rashid Effen-di and "slipped" by him and the nationalist ministers. I learned of this matter while I was in London and was amazed that the army should require 1.7 billion Lebanese pounds for food and drink. I find it likely that this sum is being provided in order to buy military equipment and ammunition and so that the army can resume destroying the mountain and the suburb.

AL-HAWADITH: What is your opinion on the notion of going back to the council of ministers and resuming the dialogue with President Amin al-Jumayyil?

Walid Jumblatt: Let others go back to Amin al-Jumayyil and resume the dialogue with him. I will not.

AL-HAWADITH: What is new as far as the Lebanese agreement papers go?

Walid Jumblatt: The most recent paper was presented to Damascus and we read it in the presence of the deputy prime minister 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. It was a paper in which the Lebanese president, Amin al-Jumayyil, asked for more powers for the office of the president, that is, he is trying to turn into an emperor along the lines of Emperor Bokassa (in Central Africa). In this regard, all he is lacking is to put a human being on his dinner table and eat him. In any event, Amin al-Jumayyil has eaten human flesh before and his war machine has devoured thousands of people so far!

AL-HAWADITH: Is there anything new in regard to the status of Beirut international airport? Will its shutdown be a long one this time?

Walid Jumblatt: There is nothing new in this regard. I have presented ideas on reopening it. If the other party still insists on linking the resumption of flight at Beirut international airport to the grant of a permit for the Halat airport, let that be on the consideration that the Middle East Airlines company will be responsible for the two airports and on condition that the Lebanese Ministry of Public Works will be the official point of reference for the two airports and the control tower in Beirut international airport the navigation base for the two airports -- hoping that this arrangement is correct from the technical standpoint.

AL-HAWADITH: Do new ideas exist regarding the return of the displaced persons from the mountain to their towns and villages?

Walid Jumblatt: There has been serious discussion to return the displaced persons from the mountain to their areas and to create a council to redevelop the mountain which will include influential Christians and Moslems representing the mountain from the region to the upper areas and al-Jardiyah. However, the plan to establish this council has been delayed because of Amin al-Jumayyil's position on it. In addition some foreign forces have imagined that the establishment of the council is a measure separate from the general problem of the displaced persons or that it is a separate Jumblatt-Chamoun, Druze-Christian deal. This is the ultimate in stupidity in thinking. We consider the issue of the displaced persons to be a single indivisible one, but what is there to keep the solution to it from starting with the mountain?

AL-HAWADITH: Is it possible to say that the alliance with AMAL has ended for good or that the possibility exists that it will be restored on new foundations?

Walid Jumblatt: If this alliance is desired, we have foundations and conditions for restoring it as a left-wing force. If AMAL wants to discuss this issue again, it is welcome. We are ready to hold a dialogue if they want a dialogue. If they do not want a dialogue we will retain the firm position we are now maintaining on the Lebanese scene, and others besides us can play the desired role.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there a new development in the context of the Israeli occupation of some Lebanese areas, specifically the status of Jazzin?

Walid Jumblatt: In the security context, Jazzin's status should be considered stable. The solution to the problem of the Israeli presence in this area appears to be a big one and it appears it is connected to the final solution and Israel's withdrawal from all Lebanese territories.

11887
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VARIOUS 1986 PRICE INDICES, INFLATION REPORTED

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 21 Mar 87 p 6

[Article: "The Official Index Committee Will Receive It Next Tuesday: 95.4 Percent Is the Average Employers' Index in 1986"]

[Text] The rate of increase of the index on the development of employers' consumer prices which the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Beirut has prepared for the year 1986, taking December 1985 in comparison with December 1986, totals 146.8 percent, while the index registered an average rate of 95.4 percent in comparison with 1985. The prices of foodstuffs recorded a rate of 97.2 percent and clothing and linen goods a rate of 132.6 percent, as compared with 79.4 percent in the case of various commodities and housing.

In comparing the average of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry index rate with the average General Federation of Labor index rate, which recorded a level of 100.43 percent, it is apparent that the difference is no more than a mere 5.43 percent.

In comparing the monthly average of the chamber's index, which comes to 146.8 percent, with the monthly average of the General Federation of Labor index, which comes to 162.3 percent, it is apparent that the difference favors the latter index, which is 15.5 percent greater.

However, the general department of central statistics index, that is, the government index, was still higher, since it recorded a level of 157.1 percent on the average as compared with 132.9 percent, taking December 1985 relative to December 1986.

It is expected that the official index committee will receive the chamber's index at its meeting scheduled for next Tuesday.

The text of the index as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Beirut has prepared it:

The consumer price indices in Beirut have gone beyond all previous rates of increase, since they attained great leaps which Lebanon had not encountered

Table One: Indices for the General Total with Seasonal Factors Excluded

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	First Half Average
1985	675.2	723.7	793.3	858.7	867.1	834.1	792.1
1986	1,122.2	1,171.1	1,150.6	1,265.5	1,405.6	1,533.3	1,274.7
Rate of Increase [Percent]	66.2	61.8	45	47.4	62.1	83.7	60.9
Year	July	August	September	October	November	December	First Half Average
1985	848.9	871.4	909.5	975.0	985.4	1,008.4	933.1
1986	1,809.7	1,909.0	1,936.3	2,128.2	2,301.7	2,488.9	2,090.6
Rate of Increase [Percent]	113.2	119.1	112.9	118.3	133.6	146.8	124.6
Year	1985	1986	Rate of Increase [Percent]				
Annual Level	862.6	1,685.2		95.4			

Table Two: Table Specifying Semiannual and Annual Developments within Spending Categories

Average Level for Spending Categories	First Half	Second Half	Year 1986 Year Average
Foodstuffs	56.5	132.6	97.2
Clothing and Linen	98.6	158.5	132.6
Housing and Finished Goods	48.4	89.8	70.1
Other Expenses	57.3	99.5	79.4
Total	60.9	124.6	95.4

before. Whereas the index in December 1985 was 1,008.3, it came to 2,488.9 in December 1976. Thus, the annual rate of increase at the end of 1986 amounted to 146.8 percent. The average of the monthly indices for 1986 was 1,685.2 as compared with 862.6 for 1985. The average rate of increase is 95.4 percent. The comparison at all times is between figures with seasonal factors excluded, with the base year, 1966, equal to 100.

Table One highlights the details of the monthly developments.

What is remarkable is the rising rate of increase, particularly in the latest months, following the inflammation of general conditions and political instability, and consequently the lack of confidence in the Lebanese pound and the weakness in its buying power, which have led to a rise in the prices of commodities and imported goods, mostly from abroad.

The increase in 1986 afflicted all spending categories, although at differing rates. The highest was in the category of clothing and linen goods, which came to 132.6 percent, while it did not exceed 97.2 percent in the foodstuffs category and 79.4 percent in the case of other expenditures. Housing and finished goods increased by a rate of 70.1 percent (Table Two).

The average rates of increase in 1986, in detail, for all spending categories were [in percent]:

Foodstuffs:

A. Grain and grain products	53.5
B. Starches	57.4
C. Sweets	161.0
D. Nuts and fruit with pits	120.8
E. Vegetables	85.5
F. Fruit	104.2
G. Meat and meat products	107.9
H. Fresh eggs	74.8
I. Fish and sardines	95.2
J. Milk and cheese	95.0
K. Fat and oil materials	80.7
L. Diverse foodstuffs	76.7
M. Carbonated and non-carbonated beverages	209.6
N. Alcoholic beverages	119.5

O. Food and drink away from home	81.6
Total	97.2

Clothing and linen goods:

A. Men's clothing	153.6
B. Women's clothing	139.8
C. Children's clothing	115.1
D. Underclothes and linen goods	150.2
E. Shoes	123.5
F. Household linen	103.5
[Total]	132.6

Housing and finished goods

A. Rents	9.3
B. Levies and taxes	13.6
C. Water	--
D. Fuel, lighting and electricity	45
E. Finished goods	208.4
F. Repairs and renovations	106.9
Total	70.1

Other expenses:

A. Medical care and medicines	90.8
B. Personal care	68.4
C. Education	68.3
D. Recreation and tourist activity	69.3
E. Transport	74.1
F. Telephones	50.0
G. Cleaning and household materials	114.4
H. Services	68
I. Cigarettes and tobacco	96.7

J. Various expenses 21.8

Total 79.4

The higher rate of increase in the non-carbonated and carbonated beverages category (209.6 percent) causes us to pause to reflect. This is related to the rise in the prices of ground coffee. It is followed by the categories of finished consumer goods (208.4 percent), sweets (1671 percent), men's clothes (153.6 percent), underclothes (150.2 percent), women's clothes (139.8 percent), shoes (113.5 percent) and nuts and fruit with seeds (120.8 percent), respectively.

Finally, we hope to witness in 1987 the beginning of the economic stability which will help stop the rise in consumer prices for everyone and we hope that the index and the section which prepares it will receive the attention of your venerable department.

11887

CSO: 4404/314

SAUDI ARABIA

INTERIOR MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON GULF SECURITY

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 6 Mar 87 pp 30, 31

[Interview with Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz:
"There Is Not One Military Base In All of the Gulf. We Do Not See An
Immediate End to the Gulf War"]

[Text] Prince Nayif Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of interior, is the eye that is forever vigilant so that the citizens can safely go to sleep.

He exercises the powers of government without repression, tyranny, or injustice.

All are equal before shari'a law. This how the kingdom perceives its internal security with which Prince Nayif is charged. The following interview took place at his office in Riyadh.

[Question] Gulf interior ministers met in Muscat to decide on security strategy. Was the meeting successful?

[Answer] It was a very successful meeting during which a strategy was devised. There was a consensus over the nature of the strategy and its scope.

[Question] Was security strategy your personal idea or was it a general proposal?

[Answer] It was conceived and suggested by Gulf interior ministers and by the GCC secretariat. After it was discussed by the ministers in 1985, they asked their undersecretaries to formulate the strategy in coordination with the GCC secretariat. It is to be noted that this strategy was previously approved in principle by the Gulf Summit. The meeting, therefore, accomplished what it set out to do.

[Question] Who called it an "extraordinary" meeting--Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, or who?

[Answer] Actually it was the interior minister of Oman after the under-secretaries completed their studies in cooperation with the general secretariat which issued the invitations.

[Question] There are those who say that Kuwait called for the meeting to inform Gulf countries of the extent of the conspiracy which began with bombings in Kuwait and which targeted other Gulf countries. Is that true?

[Answer] The strategy was not an emergency measure but the result of long discussions and studies. As to the invitation, I told you how it came about and who issued it. The strategy that was approved took into consideration not only the current environment in the Gulf but also the various aspects of security cooperation and the perpetuation of comprehensive security outlook with participation by all defense, education, and information apparatuses so that each sector, through its individuals, firms, or organizations, can carry out its responsibilities in that regard. Comprehensive security requires collective efforts by everybody. Security of the mind, the most important element of all, must also be taken into consideration in order to protect our society intellectually. We approach the intellectual arena from the security angle in order to utilize all information media--whether audited, watched, or read. Food security is very important also. So is social security, not to mention specialized areas such as crime fighting. What this means is that we in the Gulf have no expansionist designs. We do not desire to impose our style or viewpoint on anybody but, at the same time, we will allow no one to impose on us what contradicts our faith. We adhere, of course, to Islamic shari'ah whose guiding noble teachings and rulings are the driving force and the point of reference for our society. We will resist attempts by those outside our region to interfere in our internal affairs. At the same time, we will maintain respect for others. We are keen on continuing good relations based on mutual respect.

[Question] Why was the Oman meeting called "extraordinary"?

[Answer] Because it was not one of the ordinary meetings held annually by Gulf interior ministers as a prelude to the Gulf summit to which it would make suggestions and present viewpoints. This particular meeting was held in order to prepare a presentation of the strategy to the upcoming GCC summit.

[Question] Did Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad, interior minister of Kuwait, brief you on the investigations in Kuwait and say that they [terrorist incidents] also targeted other Gulf countries?

[Answer] It is natural that we be informed on the details of such an incident. Furthermore, we are always in touch with brother Nawwaf who always keeps us informed. Our meeting gave us the opportunity to study and evaluate the issue more thoroughly. We are pleased that Kuwait had things under control which contributed to the success of the Islamic Summit and ensured the security of its participants. We were also pleased that Kuwait uncovered the plot in the way it did.

[Question] Do you believe that security, after the strategy is signed and implemented, will be complete and comprehensive and that there will be a swift response to any attempt at aggression or sabotage in the Gulf?

[Answer] These things take effort, preparation, coordination, and time. Even before the strategy, all Gulf countries were always totally ready to share financial, military, and security resources in order to help ensure the security of GCC members and their citizens.

[Question] Has the kingdom witnessed any terrorist activity that we have not heard about?

[Answer] There was never any such attempt.

[Question] Is there any Gulf or international coordination in the fight against terrorism?

[Answer] There is effective coordination with the Gulf but not yet with other nations.

[Question] You mentioned that strategic security falls within a framework already approved by Gulf officials. What do you mean?

[Answer] These entail principles, objectives, and methodology previously discussed and approved.

[Question] Let us talk about drugs. Are they smuggled into the kingdom across its northern border from Lebanon or from Pakistan?

[Answer] Unfortunately, most of it comes across the northern border but not necessarily from Lebanon. Some shipments come by sea and are confiscated. Limited quantities originate elsewhere and are hand carried.

[Question] You initiated a worthwhile information campaign to expose the dangers of drugs. Are you following up on that?

[Answer] Actually, drug use is limited in Saudi Arabia. I made a point of bringing the subject up at our meeting of Arab Gulf ministers and during discussions with interior ministers of other countries where drugs could originate or transit. We reached an understanding on this dangerous issue to which we in the kingdom pay great attention. We are careful to involve all sectors. For instance, we have formed a national anti-drug organization whose members include universities, educators, and all those concerned with preparing young people for an honorable future. We are looking, in cooperation with the media, for effective guidance and enlightening techniques. I would say, and many share my viewpoint, that drugs are perhaps the most threatening corruption we face in this modern age.

We, in our region, are targeted. The essence of a country is its youth. A nation would collapse if its youth were corrupted. I told my colleagues at the recent meeting of interior ministers in Tunis that one who exhibits corrupt behavior but maintains good health may someday straighten out and live as a useful human being. Drugs, on the other hand, destroy both body and mind. An addict becomes totally incapable of being rehabilitated by anyone. I can't imagine that a man could keep his calm and maintain his

composure if he found that a member of a family he raised has become an addict. If this disease spreads within the Arab family, God forbid, it would destroy our young people who are the future men of education, police, army, and information. If youth becomes corrupt, then everything else fails. How could we trust an army that takes drugs? Or addicted educators? Behind such attempts [as published] are enemies of Islam and of the Arabs who hope to corrupt our youth and destroy society. I believe that responsibility for fighting drugs, even though it legally belongs to the interior ministry, should be borne by everybody and especially the press. The press must pay attention to the issue, warn people against its dangers, and persist in a frank campaign to enlighten our youth, women, men, fathers and mothers as well as educators. This disease would be difficult to treat if it festered and became widespread. Thank heavens we are people of a faith that prohibits such dangerous practices.

Prince Nayif added: This disease is an alarming indication of a catastrophe albeit limited and still premature as far as our society is concerned. I invite everybody to join in shouldering this public responsibility because the disease impacts on us all. We must carry out an effective campaign against this destructive pest and highlight the dangers of narcotics. Such a campaign would have the following specific objectives:

- 1- Quantifying the actual dangers of narcotics and disseminating that information to everyone.
- 2- Identifying effective methods to fight narcotics in a scientific way.
- 3- Instituting severe punishments for persistence in such practices. We consider the addict to be ill. Dealers and smugglers, on the other hand, are considered criminals. A man who shoots another may miss and his victim may be able to escape death. A drug dealer, on the other hand, never misses because his victims are always doomed and because he turns youth into the living dead. He endangers a whole generation. We are attempting to revive the conscience of such criminals, be they smugglers or dealers, and instill in them the fear of God in order, to reform and give up this trade in favor of making an honest living. If they don't, society then must punish them severely. Those who know of a smuggler or a drug dealer and do not report him to the authorities are also criminals.

[Question] Are there political prisoners in Saudi jails?

[Answer] Never. Not a single political prisoner.

[Question] There is no communist activity in the kingdom?

[Answer] No, not at all.

[Question] Are there communists in jail?

[Answer] Absolutely not.

[Question] You were an early proponent of wide-scale administrative use of computers and you ordered them installed at the interior ministry. Where does this stand at the moment?

[Answer] We went a long way in this direction at the interior ministry and other government agencies. We have a sophisticated data base on which we depend totally. We also now have a highly skilled Saudi technical cadre which, in my view, is more important because you can always import machines but not skill. Besides, Saudi youths are now highly qualified to run this complex equipment.

[Question] Are there any border disputes between Saudi Arabia and its neighbors?

[Answer] Not exactly conflicts in the common sense of the word. We still have undefined borders with some sister countries but we are on the way to resolving them.

[Question] Does Kuwait still have reservations over the unified comprehensive security agreement?

[Answer] Kuwait made some remarks about the agreement and we hope that all reservations will disappear because we, as interior ministers, resolved that a comprehensive agreement is very important to the implementation of the strategy.

[Question] Do you think that current terrorist activity is a by-product of the Gulf war?

[Answer] Such attempts are greatly the result of the Gulf war.

[Question] Do you see an end to that war?

[Answer] Unfortunately there is no imminent end in sight despite current efforts which we hope will be fruitful.

[Question] Has crime increased or decreased in Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] Crime is decreasing considering the rise in population and in the number of those arriving in Saudi Arabia.

[Question] Are there regulations that would prevent those arriving from acquiring resident status?

[Answer] This is a function of need and work requirements. We look at the issue objectively with a view to the country's need for technicians and workers.

[Question] How about the refugee camp war in Lebanon?

[Answer] It is a tragedy that defies belief and should not be allowed to continue.

[Question] How about Lebanon's situation and suffering?

[Answer] A worse tragedy. And worst of all is the absence of even the slightest idea on how to bring this sad situation to an end.

[Question] How about the recent visit to Saudi Arabia by the Austrian interior minister?

[Answer] He was paying back a visit I made to Austria. It was a successful visit that expressed Austria's friendship for the Arabs, its support of Saudi causes, and its willingness to supply the expertise and equipment we may need.

[Question] Are there foreign military bases in any of the Gulf countries?

[Answer] Not a single one. Gulf countries are open and those who wish to do so may investigate and verify that fact first hand.

[Question] Has the manufacture of Arab arms in the Gulf been considered?

[Answer] There is interest in the matter.

[Question] Are there any reservations about the arrival or residence of Arab nationals in Saudi Arabia? Are they subjected to obstacles and barriers?

[Answer] On the contrary, they have a privileged status in the kingdom. There is no impediment to their arrival or stay. They are in their homeland and they receive special treatment.

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WOMEN UNIVERSITY GRADUATES OUTNUMBER MEN

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 26 Mar 87 p 1

[Article by Javed Naqvi]

[Text]

THERE has been a 51 per cent increase in the number of graduates passing out of the UAE University in Al Ain this year as compared to the previous batch, according to the university President Shaikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan.

In an interview with Khaleej Times at his Al Bateen Palace in Abu Dhabi, Shaikh Nahyan said he was particularly pleased with the performance of women graduates, who numbered more than the men.

Out of 1,267 students graduating this year, 597 are men and 670 women. There were 836 graduates passing out in April last year.

"I am only echoing the sentiments of President, Shaikh Zayed when I say I am happy with the performance of our women at the university. It reflects a healthy and balanced society—traditional and progressive in the same stride," Shaikh Nahyan said.

With the new batch of graduates this year, the total number of graduates after six convocations is now 4,485, of which 2,284 are men and 2,201 women.

Shaikh Nahyan said most of the graduates were gainfully employed as "the government is committed to its established policy of placing all graduates in positions related to their fields of study.

"Our alumni are employed in every sector of the national economy, whether industry or agriculture or the services. In fact, our graduates are particularly

well represented in the areas of teaching, management, law enforcement, engineering and applied sciences," he said.

About the point that only five per cent of the university's teaching staff are nationals, Shaikh Nahyan said the university was giving top priority to increasing the number of national teachers through training.

He said the university had been recruiting national men and women as teaching assistants and sending them to prominent Arab and other foreign universities to study for a Ph.D degree. "So far, 19 nationals have completed their courses and joined the university faculty" he said.

Figures refuted

Shaikh Nahyan said the university was continuously monitoring their progress to ensure that their progress was smooth and their return to the university speedy.

Coming back to the subject of women graduates, Shaikh Nahyan refuted published statistics that suggested that the ratio of women students to men in Al Ain had declined from 55 per cent to 45.

In fact, he said, the ratio had been rising steadily since 1977 when the university was established. "Women now represent close to 60 per cent of the student body" he said.

Explaining the "imbalance", Shaikh Nahyan said this was largely due to a higher drop-out rate among secondary school male students, where factors like alternative employment and educational opportunities came up.

Moreover, the university had opened additional fields of specialisations for women, particularly in teaching and applied sciences, to encourage their participation.

About cooperation among AGCC countries to develop a cohesive higher education policy, Shaikh Nahyan said that discussions in this regard were being held.

Admission policy

A need for such cooperation had been discussed at the last two AGCC summits in Muscat and Abu Dhabi, he said. Proposals had been made to have "all AGCC colleges" in member states to avoid duplication. Also being considered was a standardisation of policy on admissions, faculty recruitment and research activities, Shaikh Nahyan said.

He admitted that prevailing circumstances had compelled the university to be somewhat lenient in its admission policy and expressed the hope that the current 'open doors' policy would be reviewed once "alternative routes to higher education were available in the country." 'We could then afford to be selective in our admission policy by raising admission requirements,' he said.

At present, nationals need to score 55 per cent marks at the General Certificate of School Education (GCSE) to be admitted into the university.

For the convocation on Tuesday, the President, His Highness Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, will present degrees to the successful men candidates while Her Highness Shaikha Fatima, the President's wife and Head of the UAE Women's Federation, will preside at the women's function the following day.

/13046
CSO: 4400/192

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

NEW SEA CABLE--al-Fujayrah, 11 Apr (WAM)--His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Muhammad al-Shariqi, member of the Supreme Council and governor of al-Fujayrah, this morning inaugurated a sea cable linking al-Fujayrah and Karachi under the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean and providing direct telephone communications between the UAE and Pakistan. The cable runs for approximately 1,177 km and was laid by the UAE Telecommunications Corporation in cooperation with Pakistan. The inauguration ceremony, which was held in the UAE Telecommunications Corporation building in al-Fujayrah, was attended by Communications Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Mulla and the Pakistani ambassador to the UAE (Agha Akbar Shah). His highness the governor of al-Fujayrah cut the ribbon and then inspected the telephone communications station which is connected to the sea cable at the al-Fujayrah end. There is also a similar station in Karachi. The station contains 1200 telephone channels and is one of the most modern communication stations in the world. [Excerpts] [Abu Dhabi Wam in Arabic 1452 GMT 11 Apr 87 JN] /9738

CSO: 4400/199

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

OIL FIELDS DISCOVERED--Reports published in the Cypriot capital of Nicosia say that newly discovered oil fields in Yemen Arab Republic may boost the country's proven reserves to one billion barrels. The reports say the new discoveries were made in the Wadi al-Jawf region where Hunt and Exxon oil companies have drilling rights. The area is not too far from Alpha Field where Hunt Oil made the first oil discovery in 1984. News reports indicate that the new find prompted the government of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to hire a British firm to study the feasibility of an oil refinery with a capacity of 50,000 barrels a day. The YAR government also charged another firm to study the feasibility of using its huge Alpha gas reserves, estimated at 5,000 billion cubic feet, to provide fuel stock for factories and generating stations. The president of YAR said last February that his country would start oil production at an initial output of 200,000 barrels a day.

[Text] [London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Mar 87 38] 12945/7687

CSO: 4404/283

AFGHANISTAN

RABBANI RESPONDS TO REACTIONS TO U.S. TRIP, OTHER ISSUES

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 30 Dec 86 pp 9, 5

[Interview with Borhanuddin Rabbani, spokesman of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan; date and place not specified]

[Text] While we were waiting to chat with Borhanuddin Rabbani, from the window of the room, the snow-covered Alborz Mountains dazzled the eye.

We could not help but think about the Afghan Mujahidin, who continue their unceasing struggle against the aggressors and often expect their leaders abroad to at least support them.

We sat to talk. There were many complaints. We wanted our guest to begin speaking himself.

We asked him about the fate of the Afghan nation and the experiences he has gained.

We wanted to remind him of the sad fate of Yaser Arafat and the compromisers, but he realized our complaint well and, in Persian, he tried to set things right with us. The discussion was long. He spoke and we listened. We asked about what had been accomplished, of his struggles and his future. He responded to us most sincerely, but we were not satisfied.

Borhanuddin Rabbani is about 50 years old. He was a professor of theology at the University of Kabul. He had spent much time in the prisons of the regimes. Now he has an office in Peshawar. His political life is also tainted by a dark shadow.

(According to him,) he had a meeting with Reagan as the spokesman of the Islamic Society of Afghanistan on 16 June. On this visit, he was accompanied by Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, the commander of the National Islamic Front; Sebratullah Mojadidi, the commander of the Afghanistan National Liberation Front; and Mowludi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, the commander of the Islamic revolutionary movement of Afghanistan.

He spoke about this meeting and we felt that he had regrets about it. What could we say? A person who has committed an error has no way of eliminating it. Let us relay the interview, and we will let the readers judge for themselves.

[Question] Tell us your views about the future of Afghanistan and what you think will happen in Afghanistan, considering the recent events and meetings.

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful.

I essentially believe, and the actual realities in world affairs indicate, that now is the time for the Muslim nations to become aware and alert. The conditions in which Muslims live now are no longer those in which they lived before. Of course, the Western and Eastern powers, and in general the enemies of Islam, have made various unsuccessful efforts to suppress the Muslim nations and prevent any kind of manifestation of the presence of Islam and Muslims; but that stage has now passed. In my opinion, the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, which is a manifestation of the wishes of the Muslims in the world to make the political and actual presence of Islam known in the world, has now, due to the realities of our time, allowed Muslims to be more patient and hopeful. They can feel that the myth that Islam was a minor historical event and can no longer be manifest on the political scene has been destroyed, and Muslims have been able to make themselves known once again, despite the cruel suppression of Eastern and Western colonialism.

Accordingly, we see that the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan has now also become a reality on the scene, even though various efforts have been made to harness the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan since its bloody conflicts with the Russians. I am also of the opinion, and this is a fact, that at the present, our struggle and conflict with communism is not merely a military one but an ideological one as well. For the Russians, their military aggression in Afghanistan is not important merely from a military perspective but also from an ideological point of view, because the communist ideology has completely failed in Afghanistan and has been exposed with regard to Islam. For this reason, the military invasion took place in order to suppress the Muslim nation of Afghanistan ideologically and mentally. Of course, as has been demonstrated and as we believe, the dimensions of belief and faith are determining factors in international conflicts, both politically and militarily. On this basis, after military conflicts and confrontation with the Afghan nation--of course, in this area, too, the Russians had not made accurate calculations and had not assessed the role of belief and faith, the belief of the people, and the power of Islam to strengthen the will of the Muslim nations to continue their Islamic resistance against the enemies of Islam--the Russians have faced the reality that militarily, the suppression and domination of the Afghan nation is absolutely impossible for them. On this basis, the Russians have resorted to other efforts in order to compensate for their failures with regard to the combative Afghan nation. These efforts by the Russians occur in various shapes and forms, internally and externally. For example, in the area of internal administration, at times they make superficial changes, posturing that their main objective in invading Afghanistan was not to destroy the Islamic history and identity of Afghanistan. Rather, the aim of the Russians, or so they say, was nothing

more than to support a series of socialist gains which they thought existed there. Now, with this purpose in mind, by preserving the history and historical values of Afghanistan, they hope to make some sort of reconciliation between Islam and communism, as they see it. On this basis, they have been and are now engaged in efforts which, in my opinion, have taken place in various forms. At times it has been as follows: Just as it was with the historical experience of the Russians in Central Asia, in which the conflict between the Russians and the (Basmech) and the Mujahidin was very severe and militarily decisive, considering the lack of resources and equipment, of course, the Russians were for years unable to militarily suppress the resistance of Central Asia. They, therefore, tried very hard to affect something in terms of the political reaction and the political existence of the resistance, hoping to ensure that the Islamic resistance of Central Asia would not become a political reality. That is why we see that even Lenin tried hard to establish relations with the government of Amanullah Khan, offering conditions to him, requesting delegations, and accepting their conditions to recognize Khiva and Bukhara. Lenin did not consent to having Khiva and Bukhara administered as independent governments. He compromised with the British, another colonialist power of the time, and tried to make them agree to recognize Afghanistan as a buffer country, without any expectations with regard to India, provided the British would curtail their activity in Central Asia. This Russian conspiracy worked. And they have repeated the same scheme in Afghanistan. They hope to present the issue to the Westerners so as to negate the political existence of the Afghan resistance, and thus suppress it. They have put severe pressure on Pakistan and have been willing to grant concessions to the Americans in this regard. We even see that the position of the Russians towards the West, which was previously harsh and extreme, has softened at the present, during the time of Gorbachev and before. They have instigated these schemes in order to harness the resistance in Afghanistan.

[Question] Do you not think that some of the Afghan groups have also had a hand in the political solution that you claim the Russians are pursuing, and have they not tried to present the Russians as having had Mr Gorbachev say upon his departure for India that the political solution to the issue of Afghanistan which would end in the exit of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan is not too far off? He had also said that the people of Afghanistan do not hate the Soviet forces in their country. Have the actions of some Afghan groups not influenced the creation of such a climate, enabling the Russians to present the issue in this manner?

[Answer] As far as the influential political groups in the Afghan movement, and which we recognize, are concerned, they have not yet taken any step which would make the Russians hopeful. But, as I said, their efforts continue on an individual basis with some of the former ministers of Afghanistan and with some of the remnants of the monarchical regime of Afghanistan. They have contacted some individuals inside Afghanistan and have tried to establish contacts with some of the leftist groups that do not actually exist and those that have formed minigroups inside Afghanistan, such as Setam-e Melli.

Some of the remnants of the monarchical regime also wanted to establish a government in exile in the West, and, as far as we know, the Russians have contacted them, even Zahir Shah himself. But, what we know is that the Russians want, if they are able, to form a government comprised of such functionary individuals. We are certain that this will also prove to be an unsuccessful conspiracy, as well as a dangerous one, in which the Russians are placing much effort. Sometimes, too, Najib is heard to say: We want to establish a so-called government of reconciliation with a number of Afghan groups. But the influential groups in the holy war of Afghanistan will not in any way compromise with them in these political conspiracies. They have certainly seen some of the people and obtained promises from them, but they are unable to do anything in Afghanistan, with the Islamic revolution of our people.

[Question] Do you not think that agreements were made about Afghanistan in the meeting between the U.S. and Soviet leaders in Reykjavik or that, if they did not reach an agreement, at least they thought of a solution?

[Answer] I am certain that the interests of the East and the West require them to engage in political schemes in the region. The Russians are attempting to impose more pressure on Pakistan to resolve the problem, and they would not want to give any further concessions to the West. Even though in the past the West seemed very optimistic with regard to a political solution to the issue of Afghanistan, every time that the issue of Afghanistan was raised in Geneva, it faced the decisive position of the Mujahidin. This prevented the Geneva negotiations from reaching a final result. And I know that the Westerners are very pleased to see an ineffective regime with leftist tendencies which is desired by the Russians created in Afghanistan rather than a revolutionary Islamic regime, which would be the outcome of the struggle of the combative Afghan nation against the Russians.

[Question] As you know, keeping in mind the reality of our Islamic revolution, when the imam was in Najaf and later in Paris, he negated some of the negotiations and actions from the very start and provided us with a decisive political line. He said that we were allowed to be active on this course, and that only on this course must our revolution come to fruition. One issue was the dismissal of the United States from the political scene of Iran. As you know, even some of the governments that came to power for a while after the Islamic revolution were dismissed by the revolutionary movement of Iran merely because they had consented to negotiations with the U.S. representative outside Iran. You said yourself that the calculations of the West regarding Afghanistan and the Third World on the whole are very precise and well thought out. In this connection, the question is, considering that you are quite aware of this issue, how do we justify your visit to the United States?

[Answer] As you pointed out, revolutions must have a clear line. Perhaps our visit to the United States can be interpreted in terms of our understanding of Afghanistan and the efforts that have been made in Afghanistan. Of course, our visit to the United States took place in the sense that, firstly, very expansive efforts were underway in Afghanistan to bring about the same fate to

the Muslim nation of Afghanistan as that of the resistance of the Muslims in Central Asia. In other words, all our efforts and activities would be devoted to the military dimension, and from the nation of Afghanistan, individuals in the name of a government in exile and those faces who were desirable to the colonialist powers came onto the political scene of Afghanistan in such a way as to be alienated from the Mujahidin and their presence. Therefore, they would misguide world public opinion and confront us with another bitter reality of once again facing an internal conflict. Again, before we were able to convince the world that we are alone in fighting on the scene and there is no one else, we would suffer another series of heavy casualties. The Russians also wanted the war to be contained inside Afghanistan, for no news of it to spread abroad. As you know, before the visit to the United States had been made, conditions in Pakistan were such that at any moment, the possibility of the Pakistan government driving the refugees back to Afghanistan was becoming stronger and the rumors of the acceptance of political plans to solve the Afghanistan issue by the government of Pakistan were becoming stronger. If we had not begun our political efforts, what situation would have been created by the refugees and the Mujahidin being driven back to Afghanistan? If we had not initiated our international efforts, a situation would have been created that would have enabled a solution acceptable to the Soviet Union to be approved. They would have taken the refugees and the Mujahidin to Afghanistan, and with the slightest opposition by the refugees and the Mujahidin to the policies of the government that supports Russia in Afghanistan, we could have expected another massacre by the Russians. With our visit to the United States, which, of course, was made upon several invitations by the United States, which had been refused three times, we were able to publicize the issue of Afghanistan and the political position of the Mujahidin on a vast scale through the world mass media. With our visit, we actually took the initiative, and with our presence on the world level, we hoped to prevent the political dealings that were being made concerning us. The decision to visit the United States was made by the Council of Islamic Unity of Afghanistan. I had personally decisively refused two invitations to meet with the U.S. president earlier. Once was at the time when I was returning from Canada from the Islamic conference of Muslims. I was in New York one night. The U.S. president sent an invitation and pointed out that the U.S. president had postponed his operation especially to meet with me. But I decisively refused his invitation. This time, when we went to the United States, I was the spokesman for the Islamic Union of the Mujahidin. As a representative of the Islamic Union of the Mujahidin, since approval was given to visit the United States, I was obliged to accompany them on this visit. Another time, an invitation to us from the United States coincided with that country's invasion of Libya. The Pakistani Foreign Ministry had made all the preparations for the visit and the Americans were waiting. But I decisively refused. However, the last time, we were almost threatened by Pakistan; a refusal to make this visit would have threatened the Islamic Union of the Mujahidin with disintegration, and we were forced to travel to the United States. However, we spoke our minds decisively there. I told the U.S. president quite frankly: You claim that you support the Afghan nation in its struggle against the Russians, however, you witness that we have given 1 million martyrs and we have 6 million refugees, and you also see the hands of the Russian executioners and functionaries stained with the blood of our

beloved. How have you accepted the representative of that regime and its embassy on your soil?

Even though Reagan was quite hospitable to us and said that the U.S. nation is honored that we had accepted this invitation, we said right there that we will allow no one to interfere in the destiny of our Muslim nation. We gave no one any guarantee or commitment and cannot do so. Our purpose in this visit was to impose pressure on the Russians. Of course, in regards to the embassy, they responded to us that since they have an embassy in Afghanistan, they must reciprocate and tolerate their embassy. In any case, in the press conference that we held in the United States, our first statement and our decisive position was that we had not come to the United States to make our Islamic independent revolution dependent on the United States or anyone else. Rather, our Islamic revolution is an absolutely independent revolution, and we have come to let the world know of our subjection to injustice and, on the other hand, to show the world that no one else has the right to decide upon so-called political solutions for and determine the destiny of the Afghan nation, and no such solution will be accepted by us. We are the only ones who can become the supervisor and guardian of the Afghan nation. In this form, in the course of the visit, while raising the issues that I described to you, a government in exile being formed was also eliminated. We openly announced there that the Mujahidin and the representatives of the fighting men in the trenches in Afghanistan are the only ones who must make decisions concerning the fate of the nation, and not a number of elements whose nature is unknown at all who wish to establish a so-called government in exile in the name of the Afghan nation.

After the visit, too, in Peshawar, we admitted that we had gone to the United States, but we announced that we would never walk with the United States. Our line is completely separate from that of the United States.

[Question] Permit me to quote what Reagan said to reporters after his visit with you and ask your opinion on it. Reagan said: "This morning, I met with the Union of Afghan Resistance, including Professor Borhanuddin Rabbani. I told them that the U.S. nation stands at their side, and this is supported and agreed to by both sides." After hearing this statement, a reporter would think that you must have reached an agreement. Otherwise, would the U.S. president allow himself to make such a statement?

[Answer] This was a propaganda statement and supports the argument that, at the present time, most of the colonialist powers want to establish a strong political position and get involved in it in one form or another. They need to attach themselves to any revolution and feel that a statement, even though for propaganda purposes, can be in the interests of their party. But, in our press conference, we decisively rejected any sort of agreement with the U.S. government and were not informed about Reagan's statement.

[Question] The Western press wrote that since your visit to the United States, that country has given the Mujahidin stinger rockets.

[Answer] We said that all of these statements are lies. We were even asked in the press conference if Reagan had said he had provided military aid. In that conference, we said that no military aid had been given and the matter of stingers is an absolute lie. We even said jokingly that Mr Reagan might have sent his stingers on mules, and we rejected Reagan's purpose. For this reason, a near crisis occurred for Reagan during the days that we were there. This is similar to the efforts that they have made in other instances and have considered a point to their advantage. In this way, the United States wants to connect itself with the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan.

[Question] But to date, none of our leaders have consented to negotiate with the United States.

[Answer] Our problem in Afghanistan in regards to our understanding of going to the United States was that we did not think of it as a dangerous political scheme.

[Question] Allow me, even though you are a professor of theology, to recite a verse from the Koran, where God says: "And you, the faithful, must never become allies and befriend the oppressors; otherwise, the fire of punishment will take you, in which case, you shall have no friend but God and no one shall help you" (Sura Hud, 'verse 11'). Considering that the Afghan movement is an Islamic movement and you are a follower of the Koran and certainly know the Koran well, how could you take refuge from the oppressor of the East to the oppressor of the West? I cannot make myself accept that in order to make the United States recognize the Afghan nation or to clarify the struggle of the Muslim Afghan nation to the West, you went there. We know the Western press well and we know that they make a lot of propaganda, perhaps even more than the propaganda of the Afghan Mujahidin. In this visit, you certainly became a tool in the hands of the Western press. They certainly are aware of the Muslims' line. In fact, in this visit, you gave them a green light, so much as to say that we Muslims might accept other lines. This is an issue that is not clear to us. We know that you did not go there willingly, but this visit was made. Knowing that you follow Islamic instructions and are an Afghan Mujahid and that the Afghan movement is an Islamic movement, you should have been well aware that even the Koran warns us in this regard. Despite the fact that you knew of this warning of the Koran, you still made this visit and we have not yet been able to justify this issue.

[Answer] From the point of view of the revered Koran, there are the issues of refugees, government friendship, and simply a series of public relations that the Islamic world or established Islamic governments must have with the outside world. During the life of the Prophet, Islam had the greatness to make all the governments and nations accept it as a world reality and to have a series of normal international relations.

[Question] Islamic governments?

[Answer] We believe that we in Afghanistan are a government.

[Question] However, in the seven-member committee, three members did not agree to go to the United States.

[Answer] We believe that at the present, we are above the government law, because we have organization and we are powerful militarily. The functionary government does not control more than 16 percent of the people. The world has not recognized us as an official government, but we are an official government. These contacts were made on this basis. They did not mean that we wanted to compromise, that we wanted to deviate from our values and principles. Rather, we wanted to show that in world relations, there is a side that the world must accept. In the area of Islamic teaching, there are no religious objections to an Islamic government having international relations with non-Muslim countries. Following others and abandoning Islamic principles, however, are not permitted to any Muslim anywhere, nor for Islamic governments to have general relations with the enemy, when it has been identified. We believe that our organization is the greatest front, and that in practice we are the representatives of the people of Afghanistan in Afghanistan, and that we are the government of Afghanistan. A government does not exist when a group of governments exchange ambassadors, that does not make the government Islamic, nor does the fact that ambassadors have not been exchanged mean that a government is not established.

[Question] What can you recommend to the Afghan brothers who are engaged in holy war now and who may not support your visit to the United States? Would you recommend to them to follow your path or would you suggest that they never take this road?

[Answer] We recommend that they preserve unity and stand in one line. In regards to going to the United States, we will not make recommendations to anyone. In fact, any action that would create problems among a number of the brothers must be prevented. As you said, there were some disputes. Such visits are not worth the trouble. I repeat, in Afghanistan, our line is a clear Islamic line and we will never allow the Americans to have a hand in Afghanistan. We will not allow Afghanistan to be a field of conspiracies and conflicts between the United States and the Soviet Union. We are determined to create an independent Islamic government in Afghanistan which is not dependent on the superpowers.

[Question] Do you not think that this was a blow that the leaders of the Mujahidin struck at the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan? Should these leaders not openly apologize to the Mujahidin? Is this not the least that can be expected of them?

[Answer] In my opinion, this problem is not as difficult as is imagined. It might have created a misunderstanding. This does not mean that the leaders have not accomplished anything or that they have walked a path contrary to the goals of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan. They know well that such visits and travels change nothing.

[Question] But, this was apparently not the case, as the demonstrations of the past few days indicate. The Afghan Mujahidin openly condemned these discussions.

[Answer] We are certain that in Afghanistan, if they were unsure of the opinions of their leaders, their struggles would not continue on a normal basis and certainly a series of reactions would be made. But this issue did not harm their struggle. Of course, there may be some individuals or persons who have no influence in Afghanistan. We now know of some offices and persons outside of Afghanistan who appear to be revolutionary and who speak with the people about Afghanistan. But, in fact, they are unimportant. They even have slogans against the resistance. But when they are judged by the Afghan nation, they are not aligned with any trenches or fronts, yet they have more slogans than others. We are certain that in the trenches they have preserved their understanding and do not see the need for their leaders to apologize to them. Even if there have been some problems and certain actions have taken place, this does not mean that the line of Islam, the authentic Islamic line, has changed. Of course, we must be aware that our position in regards to the United States has remained the same as it was before, and we have said that we will never allow the United States to infiltrate Afghanistan in any manner and create a regime. The Afghan Mujahidin trust the sincerity of their leaders. Of course, there are some who participate in international compromises that occasionally take place in secret. But they know that their leaders have not engaged in any sort of compromise.

[Question] Do you then verify that no secret negotiations took place in the United States?

[Answer] Never. And we have stated this openly. As far as we are concerned, we have said so; neither have there been nor are there any negotiations or anything else, and that is why there is nothing to worry about.

[Question] As you know, the Soviet Union propagates that this war in Afghanistan is not a war between the army and the Afghan nation, that it is, rather, a war between the Soviet Union and the United States. Did this visit of yours to the United States not help the Soviet propaganda?

[Answer] If we were to listen to the nonsense cries of the Soviet Union, they would prevent our relations with any country, even the Islamic Republic, which is our home. In the past, they even made occasional propaganda to the effect that we are persons from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, China, the United States and other places which they wanted to name. They know better than anyone else that the West would prefer a government that supports Moscow to be created in Afghanistan rather than an Islamic group.

[Question] But, if in the future, Muslim groups come to power in Afghanistan who are prepared to negotiate with the United States, there is no reason for the United States to oppose them.

[Answer] I am sure that an Islamic government will never negotiate, under any circumstances, neither before victory nor when it is in power, with the United States nor any colonialist power that will harm its Islamic values and principles. But negotiations between governments and international and normal relations in the form of embassies in non-Muslim countries require that the globalism and internationalism of Islam not be confined to a small number of countries but extended throughout the world. Given this view, of course, relations will exist between countries and Islamic governments, but at the cost of neither Islamic values nor principles.

[Question] Is there any relation between the visit of the representative of the United Nations to Islamabad and Tehran and the interview with Mr Gorbachev upon his departure to India, and has the United Nations taken steps in line with the Soviet policy, or are the two actions unrelated?

[Answer] I think with the statements of Mr Gorbachev, the United States has resumed its efforts. Of course, the United Nations has still not initiated anything; they are busy with a series of negotiations. The Russians pretended that they are interested in leaving Afghanistan and negotiations also have taken place between Pakistan authorities and the Russians. Seemingly, the Russians have indicated that they are prepared to negotiate.

[Question] As you know, the Geneva negotiations reached a deadlock after eight rounds. These negotiations are supposed to resume on 22 Bahman [11 February] this year. Do you have anything to say about this matter?

[Answer] In my opinion, no negotiations concerning Afghanistan can take place without the presence of the Mujahidin, who are the rightful representatives of the people of Afghanistan. The issue of Afghanistan has not been a political issue. It was a military invasion, and the Russians wanted to change Afghanistan into a communist, non-Muslim country. Because of the deep belief of the Afghan nation in Islam, they were unable to complete the task. Now, in order to leave and for the survival of their functionaries, they have engaged in a series of negotiations in Kabul in order to resume their expansion another way. In our opinion, the course of these negotiations will not yield results because the main party, which is the Mujahidin, have not been included in the negotiations.

[Question] It seems that the recent demonstrations of the Afghan brothers have mostly emphasized the Afghan martyrs and fighters in the trenches and they have come to the conclusion that the future of Afghanistan will be determined by those who fight for it. In this regard, can you tell us your opinion of these negotiations and what the Islamic Republic of Iran has done so far or will be able to do?

[Answer] Of course, the slogans clearly state that the Afghan nation alone will decide its own fate, and this is a proper slogan. In regards to the refugees and their fate in Iran and Pakistan, we know that they have been a heavy burden on the shoulders of the two brother countries. In Iran, which itself faces many difficulties, the large number of refugees creates many economic problems. We are certain that they have accepted this burden out of

Islamic brotherhood, and we appreciate and thank them. We also thank Pakistan. The political support of the Islamic Republic has also been decisive and open, which is a just and rightful position. They told me as long as the Afghan Mujahidin are not a principle side in the issue of determining their destiny, no problem will be solved. The Afghan nation will never forget this, and the Islamic Republic as a valuable power can accomplish valuable tasks in defending the Afghanistan issue and the ouster of the Russian forces. They have helped. The Islamic Republic must also be an important party to the final solution. We hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran, as we have sensed so far, will support the position of the oppressed Afghan nation decisively, and that this support will continue.

[Question] There are also interpretations about your visit to the Islamic Republic, which you are certainly aware of. I repeat the statement that you made earlier. You said: "I would not recommend to anyone that they go to the United States." Can it be concluded that, with your understanding now of the issue and the revolutionary movement of the Afghan people, you would make this recommendation once more to the Afghan brothers and other nations that are trying to attain freedom?

[Answer] Yes, you can publish this and whatever else rises questions concerning us. In the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan and our organization, our line has been determined from the beginning. We will never allow the East or the West to infiltrate us and the course of our revolution. Hence, we have preserved and we still preserve the soundness of our revolution. We hope that the groundless nature of the propaganda and ruckus that have started is proven to you and that our brothers, especially in the Islamic Republic, become aware of the fact that we, too, in Afghanistan, support the policy of neither East nor West as fundamental to our foreign policy. In the Afghanistan of the present and the future, this shall be the authentic line of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan and under no circumstances will any change take place.

[Question] Will you or will you not go if Reagan invites you tomorrow?

[Answer] I have seen the United States and that is enough. We no longer have any interests in responding positively to a U.S. invitation.

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CSO: 4640/104

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

TRADE PROTOCOL WITH USSR--Kabul, 15 Apr (BAKHTAR)--A protocol on the transportation of commodities between the DRA and the Soviet Union for the year 1987 was signed here. According to the protocol, more freighters will be put into service for the transportation of commodities from the Soviet Union to Hairatan and Shirkan ports of the DRA and for transportation of commodities from the DRA to the Soviet Termez port. A quantity of 2 million tons of miscellaneous goods will be shipped to the Afghan frontier during the year. The protocol was signed by Sherjan Mazdoryar and Mohammed Khan Jalalar, Afghan ministers for transport and commerce respectively and Yuryi Sukhin, minister of automobile transport of the Russian Federation. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 16 Apr 87 LD] /9599

ECONOMIC, TRADE PROTOCOL SIGNED--A protocol on expanding economic and trade cooperation was signed this morning at Melma Pal Hotel in Kabul between the DRA Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The protocol was signed by Mohammad Hakim, head of the DRA Chamber of Commerce and Industry and by [name indistinct], representative of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry delegation. This protocol was signed on the basis of the protocol dated 7 June 1970 on cooperation between the DRA and the Soviet Chambers of Commerce and Industry, according to which practical assistance will be carried out for further developing in the concerned fields from 1977-1988 between the DRA and the Soviet Union. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Apr 87] /9599

CSO: 4605/196

INDIA REPORTEDLY INFLATES FIGURES ON CHAKMAS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Mar 87 p 1

[Text]

A spokesman of the Home Ministry of Bangladesh on Thursday expressed surprise at the statement of the Indian State Minister for Home Affairs that about 49,000 Bangladeshi Chakma tribal nationals have entered into the north-eastern Indian territories, reports BSS.

Such an inflated figure of the Chakma refugees has been given by the Indian Minister in the Lokshabha without based on correct situation, the spokesman said and expressed Bangladesh's readiness to take back the genuine Bangladesh nationals from India.

The spokesman said that a num-

ber of Bangladesh Chakma tribal nationals fled to south Tripura following terror created by attacks of so-called Shantibahini at different parts of Khagrachari district on April 29, 1986 and May 1, 1986 and these people were given shelter as refugees.

Bangladesh immediately initiated the process to bring back its genuine citizens from India and the Indian side gave a list of 13,310 of which 6,150 were detected as Bangladesh nationals. Later, the spokesman said, the figure of the refugees given by the Indian side began to increase and at one stage reached 26,903 and 18,219 of them had been identified as Bangladeshi citizens. As such, the spokesman pointed out, a total of 24,369 belonging to 5,140 families had been detected as Bangladesh nationals and their repatriation to their homes could not be possible despite allout efforts by Bangladesh at different levels.

The spokesman attributed this failure in the repatriation of the Chakma refugees to propaganda and dragging of feet on the issue by the other side. He reiterated that Bangladesh had always been ready to accept its nationals and said that their repatriation depended on the goodwill of the other side.

/9274
CSO: 4600/1547

EXPORT QUOTAS SET FOR MISSIONS ABROAD

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 7 Mar 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The government has fixed export quota for each of the diplomatic missions abroad as a measure to boost foreign exchange earning.

The export performance during the first half of the current fiscal year showed a 4.27 per cent decline compared to the same period last year.

Export earning which during July-December stood at 435.2 million US dollar (Tk 1312.54 crore) was about 13 per cent lower than the six months target. The annual target was set at one billion US dollars.

Fixation of export quota for the diplomatic missions was in line with practice of most countries like South Korea and India. The main responsibility of their missions abroad was to promote sale of home products.

Deputy Prime Minister Maudud Ahmed had recently told a meeting that the size and existence of our missions would depend on the quantum of exports to those countries.

Export growth was poor compared to that of import. In 1976-77, our export earnings financed 46 per cent of the import bill. In 1985-86, earning financed only 33 per cent of import payments.

Officials said slackening demand and declining prices of our major commodities in overseas market were the main reasons for the shortfall in export earning during the July-December period. The unit price of raw jute and jute goods declined by 38.54 per cent and 11.48 per cent

respectively. The overall situation might show slightly better result during the second half of the year.

Traders however said export of frozen food was affected by the Bangladesh Flag Vessels (Protection) Ordinance. They regretted that the general waiver given to this sector had been withdrawn since October, 1985. They said in the absence of general waiver, exporters were required to obtain waiver certificates from the Director General of Shipping which was time-consuming. The delay in obtaining such waiver seriously hampered the commitment with the buyers with consequent dislocations in the highly competitive international market.

They further said restrictions were imposed through the Flag Vessels (protection) Ordinance although the shipping corporation was inadequate to meet the requirement. Despite such protection, the Shipping Corporation's share in total cargo was still only about 17 per cent.

The traders also alleged that the sailings of vessels of the Shipping Corporation to main international ports were few and irregular, and the freight rates were so high that it was impossible to ship goods in Bangladesh flag vessels. There were also reports of unfair practices by Shipping Corporation offices abroad in accepting cargo.

/13104
CSO: 4600/1548

BENGALI DESIGNATED OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] The Jatiya Sangsad on Thursday unanimously passed the "Bangla Language Introduction Bill, 1987" for full implementation of Section 3 of the Constitution, reports BSS.

The Bill provides for making all correspondence in Bangla throughout Bangladesh, for that matter in Government offices, courts, semi-government offices and autonomous bodies, excepting communications with foreign countries, documents, notes, letters, questions and answers in courts and other legislative programmes must have to be written in Bangla according to the provision of the Bill.

As per the provision of the Bill, if any person in any of the aforesaid places makes any statement or appeal in any language other than Bangla, it will be deemed as illegal and ineffective.

If any officer or employee violates this law his conduct will be deemed as an act of indiscipline under the provision of the Government Employees Discipline and Appeal Rules and disciplinary action will be taken against him under those rules.

The Bill was moved in the House by Chief Whip Dr. T.I.M. Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury on the private members' day.

Making a short statement on the Bill, Mr. Rabbi said that it aimed at full implementation of Section 3 of the Constitution for introduction of Bangla Language in all spheres of national life.

He also referred to the address made by the President in the Jatiya Sangsad on March 24 and noted that the President in his address called for maintaining all Government files and making all correspondence in Bangla excepting communications with foreign countries.

Opposition MPs

hail the Bill

Although all the Opposition members hailed the Bill some of them, however, opposed the way it was moved in the House.

Mr. Abdul Malek Ukil, Deputy Leader of the opposition, described the Bill as very important. But he at the same breath noted that there was no need for its introduction since it was very much in the Constitution.

He said that if the Government was really sincere in its approach then it should revert the name of Bangladesh Radio to Betar Bangla and similar things which were done in the wake of the Liberation War and after.

Mr. Suranjan Sengupta (NAP-U) said that an important Bill like this should have been moved in the House by a Minister in a day other than private members' day which was generally reserved for the Opposition members.

Mirza Sultan Raja (JSD-S), and Prof. Mujibur Rahman (Jamaat) hailed the Bill.

Hailing the Bill, Mirza Sultan Raja said that use of Bengali should not be limited to Government offices and its functionaries but could also be extended to private organisations and establishments.

The Leader of the House, Mr. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Moudud Ahmed, and the Awami League M.P. Mr. Tofael Ahmed, also participated in the discussions on the Bill at different stages.

The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House at 8.55 p.m. to meet again at 4.30 p.m. Sunday.

ERSHAD INAUGURATES LAND DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Mar 87 pp 1, 10

[Text]

SUNAMGANJ, Mar. 5.—President Hussain Muhammad Ershad today launched the programme of distribution of khas lands among the landless peasants saying that the journey we have started from Sunamganj district will end when we shall be able to provide lands to the country's all landless farmers, reports BSS.

The President formally launched the programme by handing over the ownership documents of two acres of land to 71 landless peasant families including Pear Chand, a widow and participant in the independence war in Sunamganj Sadar Upazila and 240 landless peasant families including five widows in Tahirpur Upazila under Sunamganj district.

The lands were given under joint ownership of the husband and the wife with a view to ensuring the right of the wives. They were given permanent ownership of the lands so that they can earn their livelihood from these lands and lead better life. These lands cannot be sold out.

To avoid hardship on the part of the landless peasants, the ownership document fee has been fixed at Taka one per acre instead of the existing Taka 500 per acre. All these steps have been taken up consistent with land reform programme undertaken by the present Government under the direct initiative of President Ershad. Besides the landless

peasant families, landless widows who are the head of their families will also get lands.

Addressing huge public meetings both at Sunamganj and Tahirpur on the occasion, President Ershad declared that each family which will get lands from the Government under the programme will also get between Taka 3,000 and Taka 5,000 to buy bullocks for ploughing the lands and other inputs.

He pointed out that although the past Government have indulged in tall talks about the landless peasants, but they have not taken any effective steps to mitigate their sufferings. They confined their activities to lip services only, he said.

The President said it was his Government which for the first time had taken steps to distribute khas lands to the landless farmers. "We have taken a pledge to help these distressed people who have been suffering for no fault of theirs and Inshallah our journey will end when we shall be able to provide land to all the landless peasants," he said.

He said it is again for the first time in the history of the country that the present Government had effected land reforms fixing the wages of the farm labourers, ensuring right to homestead and fixing the share of the share croppers as well as the highest ceiling of land ownership.

President Ershad said eight lakh

acres of lands have already been identified as khas lands throughout the country and these lands will be distributed among the landless farmers. Efforts are going on to identify more such lands to distribute them among the landless peasants, he said.

Referring to the flash floods that damage the standing crops in some particular areas of the country during the monsoon period, he said an overall plan will be taken up to protect the crops of these areas. He said priority for development will be given to those areas of the country where there is no school, electricity and communications.

The President announced that the small haors which have the revenue income of not more than Taka 5,000 cannot be auctioned or leased out from now on. These small haors will remain with the local people who will cultivate fish in them and utilise the fish resources of these small haors for their own consumption, he said.

Earlier, a representative of the South Asia Partnership, an international non-government voluntary organisation, handed over a letter to President Ershad committing its support of Taka 15 lakh for providing inputs to the landless peasants who will get lands under the programme.

/9274
CSO: 4600/1547

MINISTER PREDICTS FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY BY 1990

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 26 Feb 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] The country will attain self-sufficiency in food within 1989-90 despite the present rate of population growth, State Minister for Agriculture Prof. Abdus Salam told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Relying to a question from Principal Abul Kamal Majumdar of Awami League, the State Minister, however, said that food autarky would be attained provided the country was not stricken by any major natural calamity.

Prof. Salam said the Government had already taken a series of measures including modernisation of agriculture, use of improved technology and bringing more land under irrigation network and high yielding variety of crops to attain the goal.

Relying to a supplementary question, he said the target of food productions had been set at 2 crore 7 lakh metric tons for 1989-90. He said In 1985-86 the foodgrains production was 148 lakh tons as against the demand for 166 lakh tons.

The State Minister informed the house that in the current year (1986-87), 155 lakh tons of foodgrains would be produced in the country as against the demand for 167 lakh tons. The food deficit during the years will be about 12 lakh tons, he added.

Relying to another question from Mr A N M Shamsul Islam of Jatiya Party, Prof. Salam said the total cultivable land in the country was now about 2 crore 20 lakh and 74 thousand acres. In this connection he said the uncultivable land was 123.61 lakh acres.

He told the House that it was a fact that the cultivable land in the country was gradually declining due to a variety of reasons but he added that efforts were underway to raise the acreage of this type of land through the land reclamation in the coastal areas.

In reply to an unstarred question from Prof. Humayun Kabir Hiru of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal he said a total of 57 lakh 78 thousand acres of land was brought under the cultivation of IRII type high yielding variety of rice in 1985-86 while the actual production was 55 lakh 56 thousand tons.

The State Minister said the price of fertilizer was raised 334 percent in ten times since 1975. He said despite the price hike of fertilizer, its use in the country rose by about 350 percent, the highest, in 1984-85 compared to 1975.

He said the increased use of fertilizer, had clearly demonstrated that its price hike did not leave any adverse effect on agricultural productions as yet. Replying to another question from Principal Abul Kalam Majumdar of Awami League, he said the total demand for fertilizer was being met by domestic production and imports under various grants and loans.

He said the internal selling price depended on the prices of locally produced and imported fertilizer. In this connection he said it was not possible to reduce the selling price of fertilizer only taking into consideration the reduction of its price in international open markets. Replying to a supplementary question, he said the fertilizer price was raised following withdrawal of subsidy on it.

/13104

CSO: 4600/1541

MINISTER GIVES DETAILS ON FOOD SITUATION

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 4 Mar 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] The country imported foodgrains worth Taka 737 crore on cash and deferred payments over the last five years ending 1985-86, State Minister for Food Sardar Amjad Hossain told the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) yesterday.

Replying to a question from Mr Mansur Ahmed Gazi (Satkhira-4), the State Minister said the government had to pay an average annual interest of about 3.5 million US dollars for purchase of foodgrains against deferred payments during the last five years.

In reply to another question, Sardar Amjad said that food deficit in the country in 1973-74, in 1976-77 and in 1984-85 were 14 lakh 34 thousand metric tons, 23 lakh 25 thousand metric tons and 20 lakh 2 thousand metric tons respectively.

The Food Minister, replying to a question from Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar of Baksal, said that the present food stock in the country was nearly six lakh metric tons and steps had been taken to raise the food reserve to 10 lakh metric tons.

He said the current food reserve included two lakh eight hundred and 29 tons of rice and three lakh 55 thousand and 30 tons of wheat which were now in various C.S.D and L.S.D. godowns, silos, ships and elsewhere in the country.

Sardar Amjad told the House that the foodgrains that came in the form of grant, aid and cash purchase so far this year were brought from Australia,

Canada, EEC, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and the World Food Programme.

Replying to a supplementary question from Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar of Baksal, he said it had been decided to import 9.42 lakh tons of foodgrains in five months from February to June this year. Giving a detailed import programme, he said the government would import 1.50 lakh tons in February, 75 thousand tons in March, 2.67 lakh tons in April, 1.70 lakh tons in May and 2.80 lakh tons in June.

Replying to another supplementary question, the State Minister said that a total of 520 food godowns had been constructed in the country during the last four years from 1982 to 1985 at a cost of Taka 73.88 crore. He said out of it the government spent an amount of Taka 5.15 crore and the rest were received from various donors and international agencies including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

In reply to a question from Principal Abul Kalam Majumdar of Awami League, Sardar Amjad said the target of the internal foodgrains procurement for the last five years ending 1985-86 was 21.95 metric tons and it was not achieved. In this connection he said the target could not be fulfilled due to a variety of reasons which included poor harvests, non-availability of specialised quality of grains and prevalence of higher price in open markets than the procurement price.

/13104
CSO: 4600/1545

ERSHAD CHIDES PARTY LEADERS FOR INEFFICIENCY

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 27 Feb 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President Ershad who is also the chairman of Jatiyo Party (JP) has expressed deep dissatisfaction at the political inefficiency of his ministers who, according to him, either failed or neglected to organize the JP in a proper direction.

Addressing an informal meeting of JP stalwarts and the political members of the Cabinet recently, the President said that in many districts even the JP sign-boards were not visible and normal political activities of the party were virtually absent.

He reminded the leaders that many were made ministers for serving the purposes of the government and the party but were not doing their work accordingly.

The President also reminded that in all the three elections he had to perform most of the tasks including arranging finance all by himself without receiving adequate support from party leaders and Cabinet members.

There are stories that

some of the influential JP members raised funds for their own elections and everything is in my knowledge, he cautioned.

He said that during the parliament election almost everybody received funds from the party and he had to visit almost all the constituencies of the country for procuring support for his government, while during the presidential election the others failed in their task.

The President advised his ministers to organize and reorganize the JP in all the 64 districts by the end of March and asked them to form fullfledged JP committees everywhere comprising JP MPs and other leaders of the party.

He said that so far the party was concerned, the MPs, ministers and local leaders were equal and he would not allow any leader to dictate to the others as allegations were raised everywhere.

The President also gave the decision that Col. (retd) Malek, the administrator of

Dhaka Municipal Corporation, would organize the JP in the capital city and there shall be a single committee in Dhaka instead of the prevailing two.

Immediately Col. Malek said that he could not do many things according to his own wisdom following continuing interference from inside the party.

The president said that he would issue specific directives in this regard soon.

The President said that his government was against any sort of violence and asked his partymen to avoid any type of confrontation.

The President gave an indication that after March he would initiate a reshuffle in the party and the Cabinet and cautioned everybody to try to avoid to be victims of such a reshuffle.

/13104
CSO: 4600/1543

TWO AWAMI PARTY Factions MERGE, CLASHES REPORTED

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 20 Mar 87 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Two factions of National Awami Party (NAP) one headed by Prof Mozaffar Ahmed and the other by Syed Altaf Hussain merged into one organisation yesterday. It will however, continue to be known as National Awami Party.

The merger of the two factions of NAP was formally announced by Prof Mozaffar Ahmed at a joint conference of the two at the Engineers Institution in the city. Prof Mozaffar Ahmed has become president of the party and Syed Altaf Hussain has become its General Secretary.

The conference which began at 12 noon, two hours behind schedule was attended by leaders from a number of political parties. Prof Mozaffar attributed the delay to unavoidable circumstances while the party insiders said it was due to the difference of opinion on selecting party leaders.

Meanwhile, before the leaders arrived at the venue, students fronts of the two NAP factions—Chhatra Samity Mozaffar and Chhatra Oikya, Altaf Hussain chanted slogans and counter slogans and clashed with each other. The trouble started when workers of Chhatra Samity raised slogans in support of Prof. Mozaffar repeatedly despite a standing order from the conference organisers not to raise slogans for any individual but to do so for the unity of the two

factions. At one stage, the workers of Chhatra Oikya pulled down the banner of Chhatra Samity in protest and took over the dais chanting slogans for the unity.

The situation came under control when some senior leaders of the two party factions appealed to the students to withdraw all banners except those supporting unity.

The conference began with recitation from the Quran by leader Peer Habibur Rahman followed by hoisting of the National flag and the party flags by the President and the general secretary of the united party.

The inaugural session of the conference was presided over by Prof Mozaffar Ahmed and addressed by Syed Altaf Hussain, Mohiuddin Ahmed of Baksal, Mohammad Toaha of Samyabadi Dal, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik of CPB and Col (retd) Shawkat Ali of Mukti Joddha Sanghati Parishad. Baksal leader Abdur Razzaq; Nap leaders Suranjit Sengupta MP, Pankaj Bhattacharya attended the inaugural session.

The second session conference which began at 4 pm. was also marked by some disturbance resulting from demands from the party workers for announcement of a full executive committee of the united NAP.

The speaker in both the sessions underscored the need for unity among all progressive

democratic forces and a greater movement for ending what they said undemocratic rule.

Prof. Mozaffar Ahmed, in his presidential address, said that the country had to experience martial law due to lack of proper leadership in the political arena.

Referring to Awami League BNP, and Jatiya Party he said all these parties failed to materialise the hopes and aspirations of the people.

In this context he said NAP had united to give proper leadership to the people and salvage the country from what he said the political and economic rises. He called upon the leaders who left NAP and joined other parties to come back under the fold of the new NAP.

Baksal chief Mohiuddin Ahmed, in his speech called for forging unity among all democratic forces to fight what he termed counter revolutionary activities in the country.

He said that only socialism could bring prosperity and urged the NAP leaders to work for establishment of a socialist order of society.

Mr. Toaha said that imperialist elements began investing capital in Bangladesh in their own interest just after Gen Ziaur Rahman took power.

All the leaders welcomed reconciliation of two factions of NAP.

The leaders and workers of the new party brought out a procession after the inaugural session.

/13104
CSO: 4600/1558

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO BARBADOS--The government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has decided to concurrently accredit Brigadier (Retd) A.N.M. Nuruzzaman, at present High Commission of Bangladesh to Canada, as nonresident High Commissioner to Barbados, an official handout said. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Mar 87 p 3] /13104

MEGHNA BRIDGE PLANS--An agreement for construction of Meghna Bridge was signed between the chief engineer, Roads and Highway Department, Government of Bangladesh and General Manager, Ohbayashi Corporation of Japan, in Dhaka Wednesday according to an official handout, says BSS. Under this agreement a bridge over the Meghna River, about 830 meters wide on the Dhaka-Chittgong highways, about 25 kilometer east of Dhaka would be constructed. The proposed 930 meter long and 912 meter wide bridge with a two-lane carriage way of 7.2 meters and one meter side walks (both sides) was expected to be completed by February 1991. Earlier, a separate agreement was signed between the Governments of Bangladesh and Japan in which the Government of Japan agreed to provide yen 7,957,000,000 (about Taka 159 crore) as grant for the construction of the bridge. Ohbayashi Corporation of Japan has been selected by both the governments for the project. The construction of the project would begin this month. The Communications Minister Mr. Matiur Rahman attended the ceremony as a chief guest. He expressed optimism that Japan would cooperate with Bangladesh in the development activities in the future. The Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh, Mr. Yashitomo Tanaka, and Secretary, Roads and Road Transport Division Mr M. Nasim Ahmed were also present on the occasion. This bridge is being constructed under the initiative of President H.M. Ershad. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Mar 87 p 1] /13104

JAMUNA BRIDGE SITE--Sirajganj corridor of Jamuna River channel has been finalised for construction of the proposed Jamuna multi-purpose bridge connecting the eastern and western regions of the country, reports BSS. The finalisation of the site for the proposed Jamuna bridge was made at a high-level meeting held at Bangabhaban with President H.M. Ershad in the chair. The meeting after a detailed discussion on the first phase on the bridge containing technical appraisal of possible bridge location and its configuration finalised the site. The consultants considered different locations in the Jamuna river channel and recommended Sirajganj corridor as "The most technically viable and advantageous site for constructing the multi-purpose bridge" having the provisions for motor-way rail tracks and

electrical inter-connector and gas transmission. With the acceptance of the phase one report Mr. Naman expected the second phase work of bridge feasibility and its design will be taken up. The prestigious Jamuna multi-purpose bridge stretching over 6.2 kilometres across the River Jamuna has been estimated to cost Taka 1,800 crore with a foreign exchange component of Taka 1,300 crore. The physical construction of the bridge has been planned to be taken up in 1989. The bridge is expected to be completed by 1992-93. Meanwhile, six international firms have been short listed for the second phase work. [Excerpts] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Mar 87 p 1] /13104

NETHERLANDS AID AGREEMENT--Bangladesh will receive a grant of 102 million Dutch Guilders (approximately Taka 143 crore) from The Netherlands during 1987 for financing different on-going development projects under an agreed minute signed in Dhaka on Saturday between the two countries, reports BSS. The agreed minute was signed following the annual aid negotiations between the two countries which was held in Dhaka on February 25 and 26. Of the total assistance 50 per cent will be available for procurement of commodities. The agreed minute was signed by Dr. S.A. Samad, Joint Secretary of the External Resources Division, and Mr. S. Elizabeth Badon Ghijibe, head of the South East Asian Desk for Development Cooperation of The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of their respective countries. Till 1896, Bangladesh received a total Dutch assistance of 15624 million Guilders (approximately Taka 2134 crore). [Excerpt] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Mar 87 p 1] /13104

DHAKA-MOSCOW TIES--Mr. M.M. Bogdanchikov, Counsellor for Economic Affairs to the Soviet Embassy in Bangladesh on Thursday expressed the hope that the economic cooperation between two friendly countries of Bangladesh and USSR would continue to grow in future. He was speaking on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of fruitful economic cooperation between Bangladesh and USSR on Thursday. He said that the Soviet Union has been helping Bangladesh since it won independence in 1971. He said the main field of Soviet-Bangladesh economic cooperation is in the power sector. The Soviet Union, he said will help construct the entire five units of the Ghorasal thermal power station. The Soviet Union has so far built 320 megawatt three units of the plant in Ghroosal. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 27 Feb 87 p 10] /13104

ZIMBABWE ENVOY'S CREDENTIALS--High Commissioner Designate of Zimbabwe Dr N.G. Makura presented his credentials to President Hussain Muhammad Ershad at Bangabhaban Saturday morning, reports BSS. Presenting his Letter of Credence, Dr N.G. Mukura expressed that the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe will continue to grow from strength to strength in the coming days. Reciprocating the sentiments, President Ershad assured the new Zimbabwe Envoy of all possible cooperation of his government in discharge of his responsibilities. Earlier on arrival at Bangabhaban Dr N.G. Makura was given a guard of honour by a smartly turned out contingent of the President's Guard Regiment. He took salute and inspected the guard. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 2 Mar 87 p 3] /13104

BANNED PERIODICALS LISTED--Information Minister Anway Zahid on Tuesday told the Jatiya Sangsad that 18 weeklies, fortnightlies and monthlies had been banned for publishing objectionable, immoral and obscene articles and pictures, reports BSS. Replying to a question from Mr. Mohammad Abdul Hakim, M.A. (Al-Comilla) the Information Minister said that the banned newspapers were: Weekly Amar Desh, weekly Jai Jai Den, weekly Amader Katha, weekly Sangbadik, weekly Ekota, monthly Jonaki, monthly Bidisha, monthly Mollika, monthly Susaysthya Kamona, monthly Natyaraj, monthly Natyagath, fortnightly Chitrarath, monthly Jalsa, weekly Satdin, monthly Shatadal, monthly Sachitra Suravi, weekly Ittehad and weekly Jayjatra. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 27 Feb 87 p 3] /13104

TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS--Ambassador designate of Tunisia Mohamed Trabeisi presented his credentials to President Hussain Muhammad Ershad at Bangabhaban on Tuesday, reports BSS. Presenting his letter of credence, Mr. Mohamed Trabeisi expressed the confidence that the existing brotherly and friendly relations between the two Muslim countries will grow from strength to strength in the coming days. Reciprocating the sentiments, the President assured the new Tunisian Ambassador of all possible cooperation of his government in discharge of his duties. Earlier on arrival at Bangabhaban, the Tunisian Ambassador was given a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of President's Guard Regiment. He took salute and inspected the guard. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 25 Feb 87 p 3] /13104

ACCORD WITH DPRK.-Bangladesh and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Wednesday decided that the duration of the existing agreement between them on cooperation in agriculture will be extended by another year, reports BSS. The agreement which the two countries signed in 1981 expires December next. a PID handout said. The decision for the extension was taken in Dhaka on Wednesday at a meeting held between the Agriculture Minister Mirza Ruhul Amin and the visiting DPRK Minister for External Economic Affairs Mr Chong Sam Nam at the secretariat. The two leaders discussed in detail the cooperation between the two countries in the field of agriculture. the handout added. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Mar 87 p 3] /9274

PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS--Mr S. M. Shafi Sami, Bangladesh Ambassador to Pakistan presented his credentials to President Ziaul Haq at the Presidential residence in Islamabad on Sunday according to a message received in Dhaka on Sunday night, reports BSS. After the presentation of credentials the Ambassador conveyed to President Ziaul Haq the best wishes and greetings of President Ershad for his health and happiness and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Pakistan. The Ambassador conveyed to the Pakistani President the keen desire of President Ershad and the Government of Bangladesh to intensify and further strengthen the brotherly relations between the two countries--both bilaterally and regionally in the context of SAARC. President Ziaul Haq reciprocated warm and fraternal sentiments of President Ershad. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Mar 87 p 1] /9274

ROK ENVOY'S CREDENTIALS--The South Korean Ambassador designate to Bangladesh, Mr Chang Man Soon presented his credentials to President Hussain Muhammad Ershad at Bangabhaban on Sunday, reports BSS. Presenting his letter of credence, the new South Korean envoy expressed his confidence that the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and South Korea will continue to grow in the coming days. Reciprocating the sentiments, President Ershad assured Mr Chang Man Soon of all possible cooperation of his government in discharge of his responsibilities. Earlier, on arrival at Bangabhaban, the South Korean envoy was given a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the President's guard regiment. He took salute and inspected the guard. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 23 Mar 87 p 3] /9274

ENVOYS TO JAMAICA, ALBANIA--The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has decided to concurrently accredit Brig (Retd) A. N. M. Nuruzzaman, at present High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Canada, as High Commissioner to Jamaica, says a PID handout. Another handout says: The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has decided to concurrently accredit Mr Khurshid Hawid, at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to Yugoslavia, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Albania. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Mar 87 p 3] /9274

NEW JSD OFFICERS--Mr Mohammad Shajaban and Mr Nur-e-Alam Ziku elected President and General Secretary respectively of Jatiya Samjtantrik Dal (JSD-Shajahan) on the second day of its two-day national conference on Thursday. The national conference of JSD began on Wednesday at the Engineers Institution. Besides, a 91-member central executive committee and 11-members standing committee were formed. A. S. M. Abdur Rab will act as national leader. The conference also adopted its political reports, declaration and constitution. In another Press release issued by JSD said that the meeting of newly elected central Executive Committee will be held on March 14 at party central office at 10 a.m. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Mar 87 p 3] /9274

AMBASSADOR TO ICELAND, NORWAY--The Government has concurrently accredited Maj Gen (Retd) K.M. Shafiullah, at present Bangladesh Ambassador to Sweden, as Bangladesh Ambassador to Norway and Iceland, an official Press release said on Monday, reports BSS. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Mar 87 p 3] /9274

JUTL FOR USSR--Bangladesh will export jute goods worth Taka eight crore 41 lakh to the USSR under an agreement signed in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS. Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation has signed an agreement with M/S Exportljon Jon of USSR for the sale of jute goods. The jute goods would be shipped by June this year as per the contract. Up until now the total value of sale of jute goods to the USSR this year stands at about Tk 20 crore. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 5 Mar 87 p 1] /9274

CSO: 4600/1561

TEHRAN COMMENTS ON U.S. PRESENCE IN PERSIAN GULF

NC190752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0345 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] The Islamic Republic's stance on the use by other countries of the Strait of Hormuz is quite clear. Iran's position on this issue has been the subject of debate and discussion in international circles for a long time, and is now well known and considered to be beyond dispute.

It may be said in this regard that as the Islamic Republic has the longest coastline on this strategic waterway, it naturally has the greatest responsibility for its protection and security. Iran can only fulfill this responsibility if all states in the region observe the conditions attached to the use of the strait. If a situation should arise in which enemies attempt to prevent us from using the waterway, the Islamic Republic will respond in kind. It will retaliate by cordoning off the Strait of Hormuz and prohibiting its use by other countries.

The question of how this will be accomplished, and in what conditions, may be answered as follows. The capability and strength of the Navy will be mobilized, and other contingency plans which have been drawn up will be put into effect. Here we draw your attention to the opinion of one of our naval commanders, Captain Behzadnia, on the reasons for the increasing presence of the Americans in the area:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Could you please tell us your views on the presence of the U.S. fleet in the area, and the reason for their presence?

[Behzadnia] The United States has mobilized and stationed its fleet in all the oceans, seas, and waters of the world, because it considers itself a superpower. If there is a situation in a particular area, it positions one of its battleships there. After the Islamic Revolution, the Americans assigned a special force to the Gulf of Oman and as the situation changes, it adjusts the number of its battleships. As we have said before, the littoral countries are not truly independent. They depend on the United States for support and backing, and the United States has given them the impression that if they are in danger, it is there and will assist them. In my opinion, this is the reason for its presence in the vicinity, that is, to provide moral support for its proteges. In addition, it maintains its presence for intelligence reasons and so that it can keep an eye on what is happening in the area. But we have not seen any overt intervention during this period.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

/9599

CSO: 4600/202

IRNA CITES JOURNAL ON ARREST OF U.S. 'SPY' IN KUWAIT

LD132126 Tehran IRNA in English 2055 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Washington, 13 Apr (IRNA)--Kuwaiti authorities arrested an American military attache to Baghdad last December on charges of espionage, a U.S. weekly magazine reports.

Col Marc Powe, who was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Iraq was dispatched on a mission by the Defense Intelligence Agency to track Iraqi-bound Soviet weapons shipped through Kuwait, a report in the 13 April issue of the U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT says.

Citing intelligence sources, it said Powe attempted to read the inscriptions on the large crates of the Soviet shipment as a convoy of several trucks carrying them passed his parked car on the side of the road.

The report says the crates "were believed" to be carrying components of super advanced Soviet MiG-27 or MiG-29 fighters.

It said Kuwaiti Military Police escorting the convoy spotted Powe, arrested him and placed him in a jail for 4 days before allowing him to return to Baghdad.

"Several days later," it said, "he was expelled by Iraq."

According to the report, intelligence sources believe Kuwaiti and Iraqi actions were aimed to demonstrate to Washington their anger over the disclosures of American arms sales to Iran.

The magazine added, however, that all three countries now clearly want to put the incident behind them.

"In fact," it says, "relations between the two countries seems to be better than ever." It cited the recent offer by Washington to give military escort to Kuwaiti ships in the Persian Gulf and continued supplying of "critical" U.S. satellite intelligence on Iranian military positions to Iraq.

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CSO: 4600/202

IRAQI USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS ALLEGED, CONDEMNED

'Documented Cases'

LD191436 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1102 GMT 19 Apr 87

[**"Political Commentary,"** entitled: "The Savage Use of Chemical Weapons by the Iraqi Regimes"]

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a statement condemning the resumption of the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime, has described that regime's claim of Iran's use of chemical weapons as groundless and a propaganda ploy to reduce international pressure on it. In this statement, documented cases of the widespread use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime on 7-11 April 1987, which martyred and wounded a large number of people, are enumerated.

The criminal policies of the Iraqi regime and its disregard of international regulations, including extensive use of chemical weapons, is clear to all people throughout the world. During the past few years, the United Nations and the Security Council have sent various inspection teams and have confirmed the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime.

According to the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which was also signed by the Iraqi regime, none of the countries that are signatories to the protocol are allowed to use chemical weapons. Moreover, the Security Council in its resolutions of 30 March 1984, April 1985, and 21 March 1986, and the statement of the secretary general on 6 January 1987, have called for a ban on the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime. All of these have been disregarded by that regime.

From various documentations by international inspection teams, it has become clear that the very destructive and dangerous consequences of chemical weapons on the environment and ecosystems make it urgent--a historical necessity--that the spreading of such crimes be prevented. The fictitious claim about the use of chemical weapons by Iran has been made at a time when the Iraqi regime, by excessively using chemical weapons, has even contaminated its own forces. At the same time, the proximity of central lines and the wind currents have also contaminated Iraqi soldiers. Over the past few years, there have been numerous cases of Iraqi soldiers being contaminated in various operations, such as Khaybar, Badr, and Karbala' operations, which were carried out in the southern region.

Therefore, the Iraqi regime, by resorting to the new propaganda ploy, is trying to receive greater assistance and support from the superpowers on an international scale and to legitimize its own criminal acts. Only a glimpse at the UN documents would further clarify the nonsensical talk of the Iraqi regime and its crimes against its own soldiers. In the report of 12 March 1986, the United Nations inspection team has described and confirmed the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime not only against Iranian forces, but even against Iraqi forces. As has been indicated, the Iraqi regime, to raise a groundless claim, is prepared to inflict chemical attacks even on its own forces. At the moment, too, according to a report by the Turkish news agency and Turkish newspapers, eight Kurdish villages in Iraq have been subjected to chemical attacks by the mercenaries of Saddam. During these attacks, in addition to the injuries sustained by a number of civilians, a technician from the Turkish company Enka, who had been kidnapped by the Iraqi Kurdish fighters, was also injured.

In any case, what should attract the attention of the world's people is the savage and limitless use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime. Although we have always had the capability of retaliating in kind, Iran, out of regard for international regulations and principles and out of recognition of the destructive consequences of chemical weapons on humanity and the environment, has maintained its resolve not to use chemical weapons. However, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Rafsanjani, referring to the use of chemical weapons while addressing the Iraqi regime and international organizations, said: None of Iraq's evil deeds will go unanswered, because our war is based on the principles of retaliation. The new Iraqi action of resorting to the use of chemical weapons on an extensive basis will also not remain unanswered; history will witness it in the future. We have not guaranteed that we will never retaliate against the Iraqi use of chemical weapons. However, at the moment, we have no need to use such weapons.

/9599

'Contamination of Nine Villages'

CSO: 4600/202

NC200734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Following consecutive and humiliating defeats in operational sectors in northern Iraq and the victorious Fath-5 operations of the combatants of Ramadan Headquarters and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] in the past 6 days, 16 Kurdish villages in eastern Irbil Province and northern al-Sulaymaniyah were targets of chemical bombing by the criminal Iraqi regime. Our correspondent sends the following report:

[Begin recording] Following victorious Fath-5 operations by force under the command of the Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] ground forces and the Peshmergas of the PUK, which resulted in dazzling successes for the joint forces, the corrupt and criminal Ba'thist Iraqi regime once again resorted to chemically bombing villages and liberated areas of Iraqi Kurdistan to avenge its dastardly defeat. This bestial measure resulted in the contamination of nine villages in eastern Irbil Province and seven villages in al-Sulaymaniyah Province, harming many women and children.

According to the Central News Unit, citing one of the commanders of the Fath-5 operations, some of the liberated Kurdish villages Iraq targetted for chemical bombings were: (Barisan), (Tutmeh), (Shaykh Hisan), (Benagusan), and (Mergheh) in Irbil; and (Feladen), (Kerler), (Chukhmekh), (Sangar), (Bargelu), and Sargalu in al-Sulaymaniyah. The report adds that two unexploded chemical bombs and (?victims) in two of these villages are indisputable evidence of this heinous atrocity by the Iraqi mercenary regime.

This is the special correspondent of Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the northwest operational sector. [end recording]

/9599

CSO: 4600/202

SAIRI ADVISED TO DRAW UP CONSTITUTION FOR IRAQ

LD191544 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, 19 Apr (IRNA)--In a meeting with members of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) here Sunday, President 'Ali Khamene'i underlined the need to draw up a constitution for the future Islamic government of Iraq as well as to train military political cadres in order to manage the country in the future.

The president lauded the 'Badr' brigade, comprising Iraqi Mujahideen fighting the Ba'thist regime at the war fronts, for their spirit of heroism. Iraq will need such brigades in the future, stated Khamene'i.

Elsewhere in the meeting, which took place on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyrdom of Iraqi Alim Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir Sadr, President Khamene'i lauded martyr Sadr for his great contributions to science.

The effect of the blood of martyr Ayatollah Sadr on the future of Iraq will be as profound as that of his lofty personality. Khamene'i noted.

He said that Iraqi people fighting to rid their country of the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad will be eligible for taking over the leadership of their country in the future.

Khamene'i, who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) said that undoubtedly a regime completely different from the present one would come to power in Iraq. The world is well aware of this and therefore big powers are now launching worldwide efforts to draw up the future of Iraq, he added.

The SDC head noted, "We will fight until the Iraqi regime is toppled. It will be impossible for us to maintain the security of our nation and borders if the war mongering regime of Iraq remains in power."

The Islamic Republic neither intends to interfere in the fate of the Iraqi people nor can it be indifferent to it, the president said, adding that he had proposed that SAIRI draft and present the future constitution of Iraq so that Iraq's political future would be clear for the people.

/9599
CSO: 4600/202

TEHRAN: IRAQIS OFFERED PAYMENT TO DIVORCE PERSIAN WIVES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 87 p 18

[The following is an English translation of the Arabic document reproduced on the page alongside an identical translation into Persian]

[Text] In the Name of God, the Blessed, the Merciful

Republic of Iraq
Revolution Command Council

Secret, Personal, Immediate

22 April 1981

To/Office of the Presidency of the Republic
Subject/Resolution No. of 15 April 1981

Pertaining to Revolutionary Command Council Resolution No. on 15 April 1981

The following is resolved:

1. That the amount mentioned in the resolution above be paid to those married to Iranian women, before the expiration of the aforementioned resolution, who proceed to divorce their wives and do not return to the divorced women. The amount will not be paid in the event that the marriage to the Iranian takes place after the expiration [of the resolution] even if the husband of the Iranian proceeds to divorce her after that.
2. When the divorce has taken place, the Ministry of Justice will inform the Ministry of the Interior so that the latter may on its part transport the divorced women in question out of the country.

3. The person who has benefitted from the abovementioned Revolutionary Command Council resolution is required not to marry another Iranian woman, and in the event that he does, the entire amount will be recovered from him.

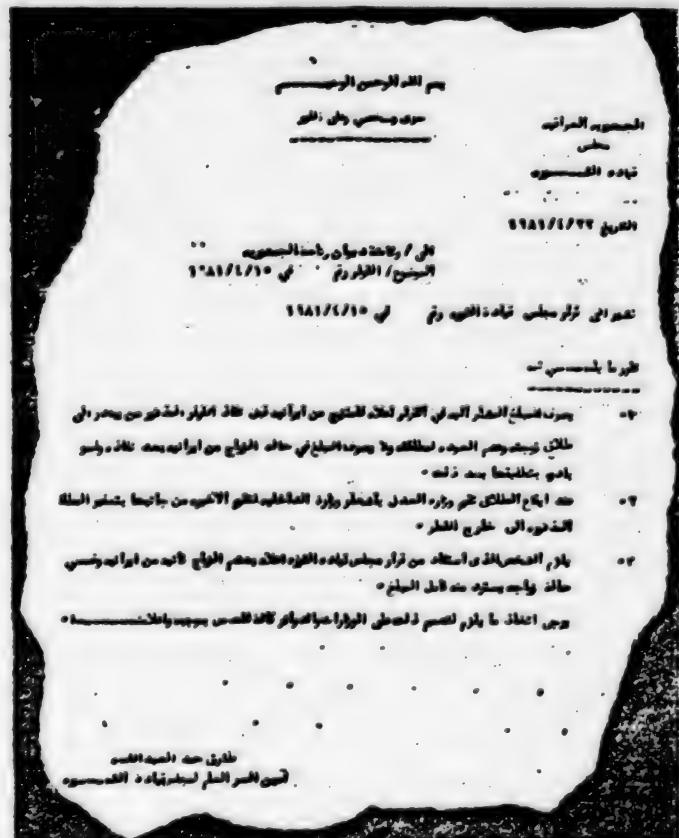
Please do what is necessary to distribute this to all of the ministries and departments to implement and announce it.

Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah
Secretary General,
Revolutionary Command Council

سری و شخصی و آنی

جمهوری عراق
شورای رهبری عراق
تاریخ ۲۲ ربیع اول ۱۴۰۱
برابر با ۱۳۶۰ روز
به : دفتر ریاست جمهوری

موضوع: مصوبه شاره ... مورث ر.۲۶ ر.۱۳۶۰
قطعنامه شورای رهبری انقلاب شاره ... مورث ر.۲۶ ر.۱۳۶۰
که قوانین زیر را تصویب نموده اشاره می نمایم.
۱- مبلغی که در قطعنامه فوق الذکر آمده به کسی داده
می شود که زن ایرانی خود را قبل از پایان مدت مقرر طلاق
نموده و بشرط اینکه دوباره به آن زن بازنگردیدواً که پس از
پایان مدت مقرر زن ایرانی خود را طلاق دهد مبلغ مذکور
به وی تعلق نخواهد گرفت.
۲- بعد از انجام طلاق، وزارت دادگستری باید وزارت
کشور را از این امر مطلع سازد تا در دوره بیرون راندن زن
مذکور از کشور اقدام شود.
۳- کسیکه طبق مصوبه صادره از شورای رهبری انقلاب
تصویب شده عمل کند و زن ایرانی اش را طلاق دهد، حق
ندارد مجدداً بازتی از تبعه ایرانی ازدواج نماید و چنانچه ازدواج
کند مبلغ مزبور از وی پس گرفته می شود.
خواهشمند است تدبیر لازم جهت ابلاغ این بخشندام
به کلیه وزارتخانهها و ادارات اتخاذ شده تا به جراحت آید.
طارق حمد العبدالله
آجودان مورد اعتماد کل شورای رهبری انقلاب



IRAN

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS SOCIALIST BLOC ENVOYS

NC160817 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs met with the ambassadors of socialist countries yesterday afternoon to inform them of the latest developments in the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons against the combatants of Islam. Contrary to international conventions and all humanitarian principles banning the use of such weapons, as well as in violation of numerous UN regulations, the Iraqi regime has repeatedly employed chemical weapons against the Islamic Republic of Iran during the last few days. The attention of the ambassadors was drawn to Iraq's extensive use of chemicals, particularly new substances, during the past week. He asserted that the continued and expanding use of such chemical weapons by Iraq is a threat to mankind. He called for political and diplomatic pressure to be exerted on the Iraqi regime in order to prevent it from using this inhuman weapon.

During this meeting, the Soviet ambassador stated his government's official stand on the issue. He affirmed: The Soviet Union opposes the use of chemical weapons and condemns their utilization anywhere in the world. He added that the use of such weapons is a threat to mankind.

The ambassadors of Czechoslovakia and the GDR also condemned the use of chemical weapons. They noted that their governments have put forth a proposal at international meetings for the creation of zones that would be kept free from chemical weapons.

/9599

CSO: 4600/202

CONTENT OF TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CSSR DISCLOSED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jan 87 p 18

[Text] Czechoslovakia has been given the responsibility to create several new factories in Iran.

Economic service. The new technical-industrial protocol between Iran and Czechoslovakia, which were signed last week by Engineer Shafe'i, the minister of industries of our country, and Mr Urban, the foreign trade minister of Czechoslovakia, was announced.

According to the public relations office of the Ministry of Industries, this protocol involves \$300 million in trade volume with \$150 million in the sale of goods for each country.

In accordance with this treaty, Czechoslovakia will purchase between 700,000 and 1 million tons of oil from Iran. Some of the previous exports of that country were comprised of needed machinery and spare parts and raw materials for the industries of our country, particularly in terms of the chemical and cellulose (wood and paper) industries.

Based on this agreement, Czechoslovakia will be responsible for projects and services involving, for example, the Sirjan and Yazd rubber manufacturing factories and cooperation with the engineering and consulting center for the rubber and tire industries and plans for the production of rubber molds for Iran.

In addition to the above-mentioned, the reconstruction and renovation of some of the sugar factories, offering technical training services, the delivery of textile and leather machinery and the transfer of the related technology, and the technical cooperation and offering of equipment for Ka'ulen Shubi in "Zenuz" in Azarbaijan are among the commitments of Czechoslovakia contained in the new protocol.

Also, Czechoslovakia will cooperate with Iran to create the Kurdistan cement factory, the Khash cement factory, and quarry equipment and will help make use of the idle capacity of the factories with a commitment to deliver needed raw

materials and to receive the manufactured goods from them as well as to deliver factories for which the raw materials exist in our country.

Part of the new protocol concerns heavy industries and is based on the sale and delivery of various kinds of raw materials and items needed by the heavy industries, involving about \$112 million, in exchange for the purchase of about \$30 million worth of manufactured goods by this ministry, cooperation in the creation of machinery-production factories, the creation of the machine-manufacturing research institute in Tabriz, the production of equipment and machinery for sheet metal factories and hydraulic presses in the Arak machine-manufacturing factory, cooperation and the exchange of parts between Iran Khodrow tractor-manufacturing companies and Czechoslovakian companies, and the sale of special steel needed by heavy industries.

In the mines and metals group, an agreement was made in the area of cooperation in sending experts on sheet metal equipment, providing all parts needed by the National Iranian Steel Company, offering mining equipment and purchasing various kinds of minerals, including various concentrates.

In the energy and agricultural groups, too, both sides reached an agreement in regards to creating water and steam power plants, forming joint energy committees, creating centers for repairing the power plants, and cooperating in the area of carrying out drilling and water transmission projects, and exchange of agricultural machinery in exchange for the delivery of agricultural products by Iran.

In this protocol, in connection with the permits for the passage of Iranian trucks in transit through Czechoslovakia, the decision was made that 200 permits would be issued this year and increased to 500 next year.

10,000
CSO: 4640/105

BULGARIA AGREES TO IMPORT 1 MILLION TONS OF OIL

LD170205 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, 16 Apr (IRNA)--According to a letter of understanding signed at the end of the fourth joint Iran-Bulgaria meeting Wednesday, Bulgaria will purchase 1 million tons of oil from Iran. In return Iran will export non-oil goods totalling as much as 25 percent of Bulgarian exports to Iran.

The letter of understanding was signed by Iran's Agriculture Minister 'Abbas-'Ali Zali and the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Minister Khristo Khristov.

Dr Zali told IRNA that the letter of understanding would help expand commercial and economic relations.

Khristov invited Zali to take part in the fifth joint Iran-Bulgaria meeting to be held in Sofia next year.

Up till now, Iranian non-oil exports to Bulgaria covered 20 percent of that country's exports to Iran. This will rise to 25 percent during the current year.

According to the letter of understanding Iran's exports will include minibuses, buses, Renault cars, motorcycles, bicycles, lift trucks and chassis, moulding pieces, ambulances, nuts, carpets, and fruit concentrates.

Bulgarian exports to Iran includes cheese, cigarettes, tobacco, meat, chemicals, paper, metals, electric and electronic appliances, tools, special steel, cranes, and lift truck equipment.

Banking [words indistinct] sides in order to increase volume of mutual exchanges.

It was decided that transport problems between the two countries would be discussed in general during the forthcoming trip of Iran's Transport Minister Mohammad Seyyed Kya to Bulgaria.

On agricultural cooperation, investigations are to be carried out on pedology, training of forest and aquatic experts, completion of semi-finished livestock

feed projects and cooperation in connection with rural cooperatives and construction of several dams in the country.

Deputy commerce minister for foreign trade, Khosrow Taj said that volume of Iran-Bulgaria exchanges amounted to 80 million dollars in commercial and trade fields in the last (Persian) year, showing a decrease compared with previous years.

He added that the decline was due to foreign exchange limitations, import restrictions and Bulgaria's limited ability to supply basic goods Iran needed. In fact, he added, Iran's imports from all countries declined last year.

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CSO: 4600/202

COMMERCE MINISTER MEETS DPRK ENVOY ON TRADE

LD172000 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, 16 Apr (IRNA)--Ambassador of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Cho Kyu-il met with Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari here Thursday [16 April] where he announced his country's need for certain Iranian non-oil goods especially cotton.

In the meeting, the ambassador set forth some proposals for expansion of Tehran-Pyongyang commercial cooperation and said that the DPRK foreign trade minister is ready to visit Iran in order to discuss further expansion of bilateral trade exchanges as well as commercial and economic ties.

In reply Ja'fari remarked that in view of the good political relations between the two countries, bilateral trade relation should also expand.

Ja'fari said exchanges of political, economic, and commercial delegations between the two countries should continue. In the technical fields, he added, the fisheries cooperation is a good example and a basis for further expansion of Tehran-Pyongyang economic and industrial ties.

The Iranian minister also announced that Iran can purchase some Korean-made commodities and export non-oil goods to DPRK in return.

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ENVOY RETURNS FROM VISIT TO DPRK

LD190428 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Mr Mir Salim, senior presidential adviser, who went to Pyongyang at the head of delegation to participate in the independence anniversary of DPRK, returned to Tehran at noon today. In an interview he informed our correspondent of the results of his trip.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Mir Salim, you went to the DPRK [words indistinct]. Please tell us about the results of your trip [words indistinct].

[Begin Mir Salim recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We went to the DPRK in response to an official invitation by the DPRK leader. In addition to holding some political discussions, we also participated in the nationalist ceremonies held in Pyongyang. These celebrations are held every 5 years in a glorious way. During the course of the celebrations, we visited industrial facilities and cultural organizations. We also had a series of meetings. The most important of these was with the leader of the DPRK during which we delivered a special message from the president.

During the course of the meeting, bilateral issues as well as international matters were discussed. We informed the DPRK leader of issues related to the current circumstances of our country as well as the situation at the fronts. As you know, our relations with the DPRK are very warm and friendly and the issues of our country are very interesting to the leader of the DPRK. He asked a series of questions in this respect for which we offered suitable responses.

In addition, we had a very good meeting with the DPRK minister of foreign affairs at the suggestion of the DPRK leader. During this meeting we discussed (?current) issues and matters of mutual cooperation on international issues, particularly over the forthcoming meeting of the nonaligned countries to be held in Pyongyang and attended by the foreign ministers of the nonaligned nations. We discussed our cooperation and made some decisions.
[end recording]

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FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICA

LD161137 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Following recent threats by the racist South African Government against Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced in a statement: Following the inhuman crimes by the racist South African Government inside and outside that country, recently it warned Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Botswana that if they assist the members of African National Congress in disrupting the forthcoming elections by the whites, it would attack those countries.

The racist Pretoria regime, in view of its racist and aggressive nature and in view of its critical internal situation--disunity in the ruling party, the opposition to the elections for whites only by the oppressed black and progressive white people--has from time to time resorted to savage and antihuman aggressions, has made life difficult for the deprived and oppressed South African people, and has inflicted a great deal of losses and casualties on the progressive Frontline states, which are in the vanguard of the struggle against racism. This time, too, like the previous occasions, the declining racist South African Government is looking for another opportunity to engage in the slaughter of the defenseless South African people.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while issuing a warning regarding these inhuman threats by the decadent South African Government once again reiterates its decisive and unconditional support for the struggles of the Frontline states, and emphasizes that those countries should adopt unified positions in their struggle against the racist South African system and should expedite the downfall and elimination of this germ of corruption and disgrace to humanity in the 20th century.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran draws the attention of world public opinion to the inhuman behavior, of the racist South African Government and asks it to condemn that regime and its supporters--especially the United States, England, and the regime occupying Jerusalem--and to adopt necessary measures for the elimination of racism.

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NEW EXIT REGULATIONS FOR STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD ANNOUNCED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Jan 87 pp 1-2, 19

[Text] KEYHAN educational and artistic service.

New regulations and instructions for the issuance of exit permits and the use of airplane tickets for Iranian students abroad were announced by the student deputy minister of culture and higher education.

The circular letter containing the new regulations for the issuance of exit permits for students with student exit seals emphasizes firstly Iranian citizenship, affiliation with Islam or one of the official religions of the country, support of the regime of the Islamic Republic, no cooperation with the counterrevolutionary factions and terrorist minigroups, and observance of Islamic moral principles abroad. Also, it states as a part of the general requirements the possession of a valid regular passport and a valid related educational visa. It continues as follows:

Note: Students who have acquired or will acquire permanent residence in the country where they study can only make use of the educational exit if the agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran proves that their permanent residence was forced upon them and cannot be altered without their request.

7. [sic] University education of a student must result in the academic acquisition of at least a bachelor's degree. (Evaluation of the degree is the responsibility of the general office of graduates of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.)

Note: Students who study for a degree equivalent to one they have already acquired or those who study through correspondence shall receive no student benefits.

8. The educational field and institution must be accredited. Determination of the accreditation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

Special Requirements

- 1. All students must have valid foreign currency report carts (twice a year).**
- 2. Those who left the country before Tir 1361 [beginning 22 June 1982] and registered in an accredited university and approved field in the 1985-86 academic year at the latest but are not eligible for educational foreign currency may make use of the educational exit twice a year, provided they offer proof of one year of passing grades.**
- 3. All those who left the country in a regular manner without a permit from the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education after 1/4/1361 [22 June 1982] and before 5/2/1364 [25 April 1985] (date of the ratification of the law for sending students abroad) and who registered in an accredited university and approved field by the 1985-86 academic year at the latest may receive an educational exit once a year, without receiving currency, provided they have successfully completed one year of study.**

Note: Those who have passed the 1985-86 college entrance examination for Turkey and entered the university by the 1985-86 academic year at the latest and who have begun pre-university courses in countries, such as Germany and England, which have pre-university courses may be eligible for the provisions of the above paragraph, provided they have begun their work by the 1985-86 academic year at the latest.

Reminders:

- 1. The number of exits of spouses and children (under the age of eligibility) of students subject to the above paragraph will be subject to the same requirements as the student.**
- 2. Should the agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the place of study or the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education determine at the time of the request for exit that any sort of deception or forgery has been committed, they shall be deprived of student benefits.**
- 3. The maximum permitted period of a student's stay in Iran is three months only. This period shall be extended to a maximum of six months for justifiable reasons, upon the agreement of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the payment of exit taxes.**

Note 1. The maximum period allowed for interruption of studies is one year only, and must be for one of the following reasons.

- A. Death of an immediate family member (father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, child), upon presentation of valid documentation.**
- B. Critical illness which prevents continuation of studies, with valid documentation.**
- C. Unexpected events which require the presence of the student in Iran as the head or guardian of the family.**

Note 2. The maximum period allowed for a student's stay in Iran is one year for students of master's and doctoral degrees, the subject of whose theses is related to Iran, provided they present valid documents in this regard which are verified by the agencies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

4. Students who have benefitted from student exit privileges for two consecutive years without any educational progress shall not, by any means, benefit from student exits for a third year.

By educational progress at the time of the third student exit application is meant:

In the annual systems, proof of passing the year or the examinations of the previous year.

In the semester systems, presentation of the grades of the previous term or incomplete examinations.

Note 1. For doctoral and master's degree students in the research stage, verification by the agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran is required.

Note 2. The period of student education must not exceed a maximum of two years beyond the period for each educational degree determined in Paragraph 17 of the circular letter on regulations for use of educational foreign currency.

5. In order to leave the country, students who request exits without obtaining exemption from military service, upon determination of their educational status in accordance with this circular letter, must take the following verified documents to the central office of student affairs abroad and take measures to obtain an educational exemption.

A. Official copy of verification of study.

B. Official copy of passing grades for one year immediately prior to entering Iran.

In regards to England and Germany, the completion of pre-university courses will be considered equivalent to one year of passing grades.

C. Official copy of accredited admission (in regards to the United States, the I-20 form).

D. Photocopy of valid student visa (in regards to France, valid student residence card).

6. Those who travel to Iran without obtaining a return seal from the agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the country in which they study must take the documents stated in Paragraph 5 of the reminders to the central office of student affairs abroad to obtain an educational exit.

7. Individuals who have acquired a return seal from the agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran do not need to go to the Police Department passport office of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

8. Parents of students subject to the above-mentioned paragraph may obtain the necessary certificates from the central office of student affairs and procure the return ticket for the student through the airlines of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

9. All circular letters on student exits issued previously which are contrary to this circular letter are null and void.

Instruction for Issuance of Tickets for Students Abroad

The office of the deputy director for students of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education has also prepared new instructions for the issuance of tickets to students abroad as follows:

General Requirements

1. Documented student residence and a residence permit, the validity of which is not more than one year old.

2. The first regular exit for the purpose of study issued before 5/2/1364 [25 April 1985] (date of the ratification by the Majlis of the law for sending students abroad).

3. To be engaged in studying at most up to the 1985-86 academic year (pre-university courses in countries where such courses are compulsory). Students in Turkey who have been accepted in the 1985-86 college entrance examination and will begin their studies at the latest one year later will be acceptable after starting their university studies.

Reminder: Students who are sent abroad, those who receive grants, and those who have an interruption in their studies are exempted from the regulations in Paragraph 2 and 3 of the general requirements.

Special requirements for issuance of tickets to leave Iran:

Having a valid student exit visa.

A. Having a currency report card valid for the year before entering Iran.

In connection with educational systems which do not issue grade reports, a certificate of passing for the year prior to entering Iran is sufficient.

C. Students who have graduated not more than one year from the date of their anticipated graduation.

Reminders

1. Return tickets for all students who left the country normally after 1/4/1361 [22 June 1982] (date of examination for sending students abroad) and are not eligible for educational currency will be issued only from the HOMA airline network.
2. Spouses and children of students are subject to student requirements.
3. All tickets shall be one way except for those involving the United States and Canada, where students are obliged to travel to a third country in order to obtain entry visas.
4. Student discounts in accordance with letter No 1108/31/3 MN, dated 15/4/1365 [6 July 1986], of the honorable members of the Cabinet will be granted only once a year and only to students who have a valid currency report card or are acquiring one. Furthermore, this discount will not include the spouse or children of the student.
5. The tickets issued shall be valid for one month.

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IRAN

JEWISH COMMUNITY PROVIDES AID

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 8 Jan 87 p 2

[Text] On Sunday, 14 Dey [4 January], the director and members of the Tehran Jewish Society along with the representatives of synagogues and the trustees of the Jewish community assembled at the building of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They met with Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Ghayuri, the honorable representative of Imam Khomeyni in the Red Crescent, and presented a check for 10.26 million rials from the Jewish community to aid the flood victim compatriots.

In this meeting, the representative of the Jewish community said: The Jewish community has shown in practice its ties with the Iranian nation in all areas. Now, the flood has made a number of our compatriots in various provinces homeless, and again we find that we have a duty to hasten to their aid with all of our resources. Upon the instructions of Imam Khomeyni, we took measures to collect cash assistance. His honor Rabbi Evril Davidi, the religious leader of Iranian Jews, also religiously instructed the Jewish people to help the flood victims. Our young people fight shoulder to shoulder with their other compatriot brothers on the fronts against the aggressors, and our community considers itself at the service of the Iranian nation with its constant assistance in supporting the fronts.

Ayatollah Ghayuri encouraged the Jewish community to continue its unity with the Iranian nation. He emphasized that especially in such crises, we must all be at each other's sides. God willing, we shall overcome all problems. The recent flood in particular has truly inflicted much damage. Thank God, the praiseworthy unity of the people has made everyone hopeful.

In conclusion, the representative of the Jewish community announced that material assistance has also been provided, which will soon be delivered to the Red Crescent.

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BRIEFS

DELEGATION IN ADDIS ABABA--Tehran, 14 Apr (IRNA)--An Iranian political economic delegation, headed by advisor and economic director general of the Iranian Foreign Ministry arrived in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Monday morning. The delegation was welcomed at the airport by deputy foreign minister, deputy foreign trade minister, and other officials as well as Iran's ambassador there, Mustafa Seyyed 'Aqa'i. The Iranian delegation held a joint session with the Ethiopian officials immediately after arrival in which issues of mutual interest were discussed. It was decided that ways to expand political, economic, and commercial relations between the two countries would be investigated by special committees. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1424 GMT 14 Apr 87 LD] /9599

INCREASE IN NON-OIL EXPORTS--Tehran, 14 Apr (IRNA)--A total of 646,232 tons of non-oil goods worth over rials 67 million (dlrs 930,000) were exported during the last Iranian year (ended 20 March), up by 64.3 percent in value and 22.9 percent in weight as compared to the previous year's figures. Announcing the above here Monday, Iran's Customs Administration reported that the Custom Offices of Bandar-e Abbas, South Tehran, Jolfa, Bushehr, Kerman, and Mehrabad had respectively the largest share in terms of weight. Last month, the report said, 80,744 tons of commodities worth rials 6.7 million (dlrs 93,000) were exported, showing an increase of 200.5 percent in terms of weight and 57.5 percent in terms of value. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 14 Apr 87 LD] /9599

SATELLITE GROUND STATION--On the occasion of the birthday of the imam of the ages--may God hasten his noble return--the central province's satellite ground station became operational yesterday. With the inauguration of this station, the first network of the Islamic Republic's Voice and Vision can now be viewed with good reception in this province. The Central News Unit reports that this television station, installed by the television and FM transmitters maintenance and repair unit of Tehran, with cooperation from the province's offices of telecommunications and roads and transportation, will receive a high-quality picture via satellite and will transmit the Voice and Vision's first network programs with a powerful transmitter for viewing in the central province and in part of the provinces of Esfahan and Lorestan. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Apr 87 NC] /9599

LARIJANI DEPARTS FOR GROUP OF 77 SESSION--Tehran, 16 Apr (IRNA)--Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of economic and international affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani heading a delegation of the ministry and the Central Bank, left Tehran for Havana to take part in a session of the Group of 77, Thursday morning. During the 5-day session due to convene 20 April, economic problems of the Third World Countries and ways to solve the international economic crisis will be discussed by 126 Asian, African, and Latin American member countries. Regional sessions for Asian, Latin American, and African groups were held in Dhaka, Caracas, and Ethiopia last month, outcome of which will be discussed at the Havana session. Results of deliberations of Group of 77 will be evaluated in the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to be held in Geneva in July. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 16 Apr 87] /9599

DRUGS SEIZED--An international smugglers group was identified and seized during a series of eight operations by Azadeh Gendarmerie. According to a Central News Unit report, following the arrest of members of the group a total of 520 kg of hashish, 34 kg of heroin, 7 kg of opium residue, 40 million rials in cash, \$1,000 in cash, in addition to 176 Pakistani rupees, were seized. The commander of Azadeh Gendarmerie Company, announcing the news, told our correspondent that, in addition to above items, two Peykan automobiles, one trailer, two motorcycles, and 22 people with 19 passports from three different countries were seized and arrested. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Apr 87 LD] /9599

SISTAN-BALUCHESTAN NON-OIL EXPORTS--Zahedan, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., 19 Apr (IRNA)--A total of 25,000 tons of non-oil goods including pistachios, raisins, and cumin seeds worth 587 million rials (8 million dollars) were exported during the last Iranian year in exchange for 7,213 tons of goods comprising rice, sugar, cooking oil, and tea. The items were exported through 13 border cooperatives of the province to European and Persian Gulf countries and items needed by the border inhabitants were imported, said an official of the province's cooperatives here Sunday. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 19 Apr 87 LD] /9599

SUDANESE ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Tehran, 19 Apr (IRNA)--Sudan's new ambassador to Tehran Ibrahim Ahmad 'Uthman Hamra met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Sunday, and submitted his credentials. During the meeting, the Sudanese ambassador emphasised his country's willingness to further cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran. It should be noted that after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 Iran-Sudan ties were severed because of the dictatorial regime of Numayri. When Numayri was overthrown, the Islamic republic resumed its relations with the popular government of Sudan. Sudan's Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi visited Tehran a few months ago and re-opened that country's embassy in Iran. Hamra is the first envoy of the new Sudanese government to the Islamic Republic. [Excerpts] [Tehran IRNA in English 1838 GMT 19 Apr 87 LD] /9599

ENVOYS TO HUNGARY, BURKINA--Tehran, 19 Apr (IRNA)--President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i appointed Keyvan Imani as the Iranian ambassador to Hungary on the

proposal of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. 'Abdol Hoseyn Sharif was also appointed by foreign minister as charge d'affaires to Burkina Faso.
[Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 19 Apr 87 LD] /9599

JAPAN-IRAN DESIRE EXPANSION OF TIES--Tehran, 20 Apr (IRNA)--Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Yanagiya, hosted a dinner reception in honor of the departing Iranian Ambassador to Tokyo 'Abdol Rahim Govahi, Sunday night. During the reception, also attended by a number of high-ranking Japanese officials, Yanagiya hailed Govahvi's efforts for the strengthening and expansion of bilateral ties. He said that Foreign Minister Velayati's visit to Japan further increased friendship and understanding between the two governments which Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani's tour to Japan earlier, marked a turning point in the history of bilateral relations. Govahvi expressed hope that after a victorious end to the Iraqi imposed war and a rational increase in the price of oil, bilateral economic trade ties as well as political relations would further expand. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 20 Apr 87] /9599

ENVOYS BRIEFED ON IRAQI CW USE--Tehran, 15 Apr (IRNA)--Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Economic Affairs Mohammad-Javad Larijani conferred with ambassadors of several West European countries here Wednesday and briefed them on Iraq's resumption of chemical weapons attacks at the war fronts and on Iranian cities last week. In the meeting, Larijani said the Baghdad regime had violated all internationally-accepted conventions as well as resolutions of the United Nations and called on European countries to take a serious stand against the latest deployment of the toxic weapons by the Baghdad regime. Larijani also lauded the positive stances adopted by the European Community on the issue last year as well as concrete steps taken by certain European states to control and ban exports of chemicals to Iraq which can be used in the manufacture of chemical weapons. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 15 Apr 87] Tehran, 15 Apr (IRNA)--The Soviet Union opposes deployment of chemical weapons and condemns their use anywhere, said the Soviet envoy in Tehran Vil Boldyrev. The Soviet ambassador made the remarks during a meeting between Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Economic Affairs Mohammad-Javad Larijani and ambassadors of socialist countries here Wednesday. Larijani citing the repeated Iraqi deployment of internationally-banned weapons, especially its wide-scale usage of the chemical arms at the warfronts over the past week, drew the ambassadors' attention to this grave issue. The Iranian Foreign Ministry official called for international pressure on the Ba'thist regime in a bid to prevent it from redeploying such internationally-banned weapons. Czechoslovakia's and German Democratic Republic's ambassadors to Tehran, Milo Amach and Genther Fritsch, respectively also condemned the use of chemical weapons. Larijani had earlier conferred with ambassadors of several West European countries here today. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 15 Apr 87] /9599

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